THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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DJOKOVIC LOSES CASE, DEPORTED FROM AUSTRALIA

World No 1 leaves Melbourne after the Federal Court upholds government's decision to cancel his visa for the second time

APPLICATION 'DISMISSED WITH COSTS'

Chief Justice James Allsop dismissed the amended application with costs. It finally ended a 10-day legal drama since the the 34-year-old announced on social media that he had secured a 'medical exemption' to enter Australia. Djokovic could have technically appealed the decision at the High Court but decided against doing so | **P11**

SERBIAN 'DISAPPOINTED'

- In a statement, the Serbian said he was disappointed. "I am uncomfortable that the focus of the past weeks has been on me." He also said he will now rest and recuperate
- He had his visa cancelled as his presence could cause 'civil unrest because he's a talisman of anti-vaccination sentiment'

21

DJOKOVIC WAS GOING FOR A MEN'S RECORD 21ST SLAM TITLE

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Hospitalisation under 4%: Study

Despite small sample size, the latest research representative of Omicron surge across India

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @New Delhi

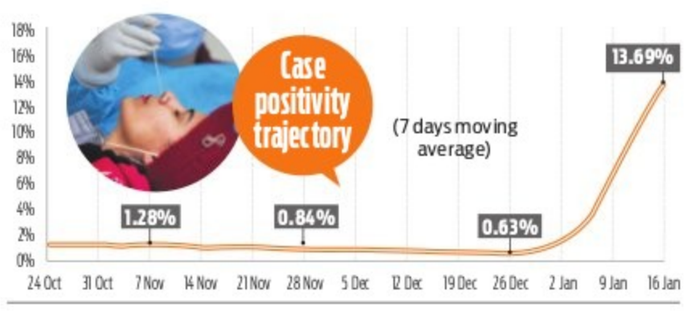
FULL vaccination against Covid-19 or previous infection may not offer any substantial protection against the highly contagious Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2, but its hospitalisation rate is way low at less than 4%.

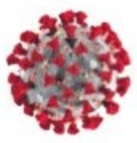
These were the takeaways from India's first epidemiological study on Omicron carried out by researchers associated with a leading government hospital. Their results, released on a pre-print repository of medical science, have also shown that Omicron was already in community circulation in Delhi in December — days after South Africa alerted the world about the variant — and underlined the limited impact of airport screening or curtailing flights from other countries.

Researchers associated with the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences in Delhi sequenced the genomes of 264 Covid-19 positive samples from five districts across the national capital and found 82 of them had Omicron. The rest were infected with the Delta variant that had fueled the devastating second Covid wave in India last summer. Though the sample size is small, the study is being viewed as a representative analysis of Omicron-driven surge in many parts of India.

The analysis of 264 patients who had tested positive between November 25 and December 23 last year found that 72 (or 88%) of the Omicron-infected patients had been fully vaccinated with either Covishield or Covaxin. Another patient had received two doses of the Moderna vaccine and a third dose of Covaxin. Only three among the Omicron patients required hospitalisation, and each had other underlying health conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure. None of them needed ICU care.

Hospitalisation rates during the earlier Covid-19 waves in India were 20-23%. Experts pointed out that the lower hospitalisation rates for Omicron documented in Delhi are in line with observations in South Africa, the UK and various other countries.





NATIONWIDE	JAN 15	JAN 16
Fresh cases	2,68,833	2,71,202
Recoveries	1,22,684	1,38,331
Deaths	402	314

KARNATAKA	JAN 15	JAN 16
Fresh cases	32,793	34,047
Recoveries	4,273	5,902
Deaths	7	13

K'TAKA ON VERGE OF 2L ACTIVE CASES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA is on the brink of crossing the 2 lakh-mark in active cases, of which Bengaluru alone has 1.46 lakh.

The last time the state had 2 lakh active cases -- number of patients currently infected – was on June 11, 2021 with 2,03,769 infected at the time. However, the largest number of active cases that Karnataka has seen was 6,05,494 on May 15 last year during the second wave of the pandemic. It has remained the highest active caseload through all three waves of the pandemic so far. The highest active caseload during the first wave was on October 10, 2020 with 1.2 lakh cases. As on Sunday, the state had 1,97,982 active cases. But active hospitalised cases have been minimal at 2,356 -- just 1.19 per cent of the total number of active cases.

Unlike in the first two waves when hospitalisation was much higher, the third wave has seen minimal hospitalisation, which the health officials attribute to the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2 virus being "milder", besides the possibility of those infected by stronger variants showing milder symptoms due to the vaccination coverage.

CONTINUED ON: P3

TECH THAT

B'luru still start-up hub, 14 firms win national awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

BENGALURU retained its title of India's start-up hub with 14 companies being recognised at the National Start-Up Awards 2021.

In all, 46 start-ups from across the country were chosen, and 14 firms from Karnataka made up for 30 per cent of all the awards given this year, said IT-BT and Skill Development Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The 14 startups focus on agriculture, animal husbandry, education and skill development, enterprise systems, fintech, health and wellness, industry 4.0, transport and travel. The start-ups that received the national awards are Umbo Idtech, Athreya Global Solutions, Leucine Rich Bio, Rubanbridge, Naffa Innovations, Simplotel Technologies, Zentron Labs, Shapos Services, Stellapps Technologies, Steradian Semiconductors, Marketxpander Services, Blinkin Technologies and Thinkerbell Labs, the minister said.

Under the special categories, Tagbox Solutions stood out as being innovative during the Covid pandemic, having contributed in solving compliancy issues and other problems when it comes to tracking vaccine shipments. He said that 2,173 applications were submitted from across the country for the awards this year and of them, 549 were from Karnataka.

The minister said, "Based on the performance of start-ups, we give up to Rs 50 lakh as seed fund. We have so far funded 498 start-ups. Around 200 entities got funding this year." **P4**

To maintain the lead position of the state in the sector, the focus must be on digital education and skill development through effective implementation of the National Education Policy 2020

Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, IT-BT and Skill Development Minister

Drunk gunman of HC judge loses pistol, 10 live rounds

MG CHETAN @ Bengaluru

IN a security lapse that has shocked and embarrassed the city police, a service pistol with ten live rounds has gone missing and could be in the possession of any miscreant.

The absurd incident came to light after a policeman deputed as a gunman to a High Court judge reported the firearm "stolen" on December 25.

In what appears to be a gross violation of rules, the gunman – Kallayya Mathapati, an ex-serviceman who joined the police force in 2019 – was proceeding on leave when the "incident" reportedly occurred at a travel agency on Tank Bund Road in Majestic around 7.30 pm on December 25.

Mathapathi was proceeding on a two-day leave, but instead of depositing the weapon with the department unit as per rules, he carried it along with the live rounds while leaving for his hometown in Vijayapura district.

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

PM Modi to address WEF's Davos Agenda

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a 'State of the World' special address at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda on Monday via video conference, his office said.

3 children die after receiving measles vax

Belagavi: Three children died after receiving the measles and rubella vaccination in Belagavi district. In all, 21 children were given MR and other shots at in Ramdurg taluk on January 12. **P5**

Denied ticket, Punjab CM's brother to run as independent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chandigarh

REVOLTS by netas denied poll tickets are no big deal, but when the brother of a chief minister throws a fit, it is bound to catch attention.

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi's brother Dr Manohar Singh, who was denied a ticket to contest the elections, will fight as an Independent against the Congress candidate for the Bassi Pathana seat. Channi had unsuccessfully lobbied for his brother as the Congress refused to budge on the 'one ticket one family' formula.

However, the party gave tickets to the relatives of a few leaders. For example, Kamil Amar Singh, son of Fatehgarh Sahib MP Dr Amar Singh, has been fielded from Rajkot while Vikramjit Singh Chaudhary, son of Jalandhar MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary, was given the Phillaur ticket. Channi's brother is a medical practitioner who had quit the Kharar civil hospital to enter the poll fray.

A similar revolt arose in Goa where Utpal Parrikar, son of former Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar, was denied the Panaji Assembly seat by the BJP. Sensing an opportunity, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal said his party will welcome Utpal if he wishes to get onboard.

Closer EC watch on muscle power in election fray

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

THE Election Commission has created a separate cell dedicated to deal with matters pertaining to the criminal antecedents of candidates, in compliance with the Supreme Court's order on the issue. The poll panel has mandated that candidates as well as the concerned political parties issue a declaration in the media about their criminal background.

The poll panel has come up with a mobile application named 'Know Your Candidate', containing information regarding the criminal backgrounds as declared by candidates. Moreover, a dedicated fund has been created for voters' awareness campaigns and to make available the criminal history of the contesting candidates to the general public. Any fine imposed by the apex court on political parties regarding non-compliance of its orders will be deposited to the above fund. **P8**

First Super 500 title for Lakshya

Worlds bronze-medallist beats world champion Loh Kean Yew in straight games to claim India Open title. A look at some of the talking points...

BIG LAST FEW MONTHS

The former junior World No 1 has always advertised his talents and he's now making good on his promise. After reaching the final of the World Championships in December, he's now won his first Super 500 crown

TOP 10 BECKONS YOUNGSTER

The 20-year-old, who is World No 17, has a definite chance of making a run for the top 10 spot soon. Covid cases notwithstanding, he will also take part at the Syed Modi meet, a Super 300 meet. Win there as well and it's a possibility

17
Lakshya's ranking in the world

SATWIK/CHIRAG MAKE IT A SWEET DOUBLE

The doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Chetty completed a sweet double from an Indian perspective with a fine win over Indonesia's Hendra Setiawan and Mohammad Ahsan

RESULTS
(only Indians, all finals)

Lakshya bt Loh Kean Yew 24-22, 21-17

Satwiksairaj/Chirag bt Ahsan/ Satiawan 21-16, 26-24

Lakshya Sen in action against Loh Kean Yew in the Yonex-Sunrise India Open in New Delhi on Sunday | BAI | **P11**

TOREX
TORQUE
" don't bother for scars any more. "
To get blemish free skin use NO SCARS. It helps to reduce and remove, scars and marks.
With Eminence of ALOE VERA Extracts
With Eminence of NEEM Extracts
NO SCARS
Cleansing Face Wash
60 ml.
100% Pure Vegetarian Soap
Get dazzling Glamour with...
NO SCARS
BEAUTY REDEFINED
PREMIUM QUALITY SOAP
Long Lasting Premium Quality Soap
Nothing makes a woman more beautiful than the belief that she is beautiful. This belief paves the way to real beauty inside which reflects outside. NO SCARS BEAUTY SOAP helps making your skin look soft and radiant. The components of NO SCARS make it a wonderful moisturizer & provides nourishment to all the skin types.
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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 17/01/2022 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Himantha • Masa: Pushya • Paksha: Sukla • Tithi: Purnima 4.16 am • Nakshatra: Punarvasu 4.06 am • Moon in Kataka Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 17°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST Cloudy

Sunrise 6.46 am
Sunset 6.13 pm
Moonrise 5.45 pm
Moonset 6.11 am

Bescom denies B'lureans 40% solar subsidy

Over 1,200 applications awaiting clearance

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

Delays in approving applications by Bangalore Electricity Company (BESCOM) for Centre's Rooftop Solar Programme to harness energy have deprived people of Bengaluru of 40 per cent subsidy on installation charges and huge savings on electricity bills.

At least 1,200 applications from house owners are yet to be cleared by BESCOM and already, a third of them have been withdrawn.

Apart from the subsidy offered, the Soura Gruha Yojane (SGY) by the Ministry for New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) permits the household to sell its excess power to the nodal agency, which is BESCOM for Bengaluru and its surrounding areas.

In the last two years, the scheme's progress has been deplorable.

Kochu Shankar, who is passionate about utilising solar energy, said "I wanted to install a 3 KW solar generator set up which costs Rs 1.5 lakh. With the subsidy, it would cost me just Rs 80,000. Besides, my monthly electricity bill of Rs 3,000 could have been saved."

With only BESCOM empanelled agencies permitted to install them, Shankar is waiting for it since January 2020.

"Not just me, there are many neighbours too who are still waiting," he added.

Managing Director of BESCOM, P Rajendra Cholan, told TNIE that the agency has already achieved 11.5 per cent on the renewable energy front.

"Anything we take on is only an additional burden for us. So, we had to hold discussions with the Centre about that. Following that, tenders for the first phase for 3.5 MW out of the allotted 50 MW permitted for the utility agency had been called two months ago and vendors would start work soon. For the second phase, we have been allotted 300 MW and we will soon call tenders for 50 MW," he said.

Asked about the expiry of the subsidy, he said that MNRE has agreed to extend it.

Tenders to appoint vendors for the first phase, announced by the Centre, were floated in February and the subsidy was permitted until October 2021. The responses from the vendors were poor and the public has lost a subsidy of Rs 60 crore, Shankar added.

DESPERATE TIMES

F&B stakeholders to meet CM on curfew

BALA CHAUHAN @bengaluru

THE Food and Beverage (F&B) and allied service sector in Karnataka are pinning their hopes on a last-ditch effort -- their meeting with the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary early next week – to break ice with the government on relaxing night and weekend curfew. "We are in dire straits now, having suffered the brunt of repeated closures and stringent restrictions since March 2020. We are finding it impossible to continue business with our businesses down by 60 to 70 percent since December-end.

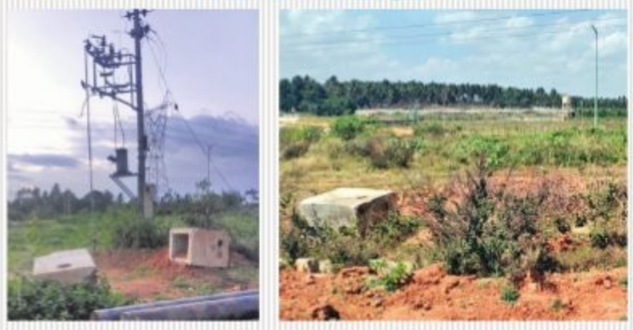
It is now a matter of survival for us. The industry representatives are planning to meet the CM and CS to request them to give us some relaxations in night and weekend curfew. We are hopeful of a positive outcome," said the head of Bengaluru chapter of the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) MukeshTolani, and co-founder of popular microbrewery 'Toit'.

Unconfirmed sources said the F&B and allied sectors in the city are reportedly mulling the possibility of defying the weekend curfew and keeping

their premises and outlets open as a "desperate measure to survive", said sources.

Last week, Ajay Gowda, founder, Byg Brewski Brewing Company and Bob's Bar, represented NRAI and addressed a press meet in which other allied associations -- Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association, Wine Merchants' Association, Caterers' Association, Choultry and Marriage HallsAssociation and Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (hotel wing) had joined hands to highlight the worsening situation of their businesses. "We are a law-abiding industry, cooperating with the government. But we need to look out for ourselves,"he said.

TNIE IMPACT



The transformer on M N Kempanna's site which was removed by the BDA following a report by The New Indian Express

EX-ARMY MAN CAN NOW BUILD HIS HOME

THE BDA has removed a transformer present on a site allotted to a former army man M N Kempanna in Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout paving way for him to finally construct his house on it. The allottee was struggling to do so earlier due to the presence of the dead transformer in the middle of his site.

TNIE had highlighted his plight in its issue dated November 10, 2021, under the headline, "Ex-army man lucky to get BDA site but with an unwanted add-on: A transformer!"

State ready to combat 3rd wave: Sudhakar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HEALTH Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday said that the State Government is ready to face the third wave of Covid-19.

The countrywide vaccination drive against Covid-19 completed one year on Sunday. Dr Sudhakar said that as of now over 9 crore vaccinations have been administered in Karnataka. This includes over 8 crore adults, who have received both their doses, and 19 lakh children between the age group of 15 and 17 who have got one jab. In addition, almost three lakh citizens have received their precautionary dose as on Sunday.

Dr Sudhakar said that the third wave of the pandemic will be controlled through the use of technology and data to ensure that those affected will be treated effectively and immediately. He also said that the state is preparing for the third wave by educating over 10,000 home physicians on how to handle home isolation cases as well as dos and dont's on giving advice to patients. He said that students in their final year of medical college will also be given the same kind of training.

In addition, the minister also inaugurated a free healthcare service camp for those in need in the city on Sunday. The healthcare camp, named Swasthya, is being organised by Abalashrama, an NGO, that aims at helping and empowering women. The initiative offers multiple multi-speciality medical services to those in need free of cost.

A health worker takes a break in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Return to work, min to guest lecturers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

HIGHER Education Minister **Dr C N Ashwath Narayan** appealed to guest lecturers to end their agitation as the government had considered their demands. The State government announced relief measures on Friday for the lecturers, including a 100% hike on their honorariums.

The hike will raise the salary of the lecturers to a minimum of Rs 26,000 and a maximum of Rs 32,000 a month. Previously, lecturers with UGC-prescribed eligibility were paid Rs 13,000, while those without received Rs 11,000.

However, despite the hike, the lecturers continued to protest on Saturday, as the government also increased their workload from 8 hours to 15 hours. Several lecturers' associations said they would continue protesting as they were not satisfied with the measures announced.

The minister made an appeal to the disgruntled guest lecturers, requesting them to return to work. "The government has announced a good package, irrespective of the burden on the exchequer. The appointments will be made for the entire academic year, instead of semester, and payment of honorarium will be made before the 10th of every month," he said. He requested the lecturers to consider the interests of the student community as well.

The government has announced a good package irrespective of the burden on the exchequer. Payment of honorarium will be made before 10th of every month

Ashwath Narayan, Higher Education Min

Home buyers organise virtual andolan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH no response to their memorandums, the Karnataka Home Buyers Forum organized an online portest on Sunday against the poor implementation of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA).

Numerous home buyers from various projects across Bengaluru and Karnataka joined the virtual andolan to voice their concerns and problems including a lack of action by K-RERA against builders. Several of the home buyers had filed cases against builders for various reasons, including poor building infrastructure, fraud in procurement of completion certificates and failure to develop projects that were due years ago.

Many of the buyers have been facing financial issues over non-payment of loans taken out to pay for the homes, with some even having to face the threat of homelessness.

However, despite cases being filed with K-RERA for years, they have still not received any kind of relief. A forum, formed by a collective of dissatisfied home buyers, had approached RERA multiple times, submitting several memorandums in order to get their demands heard. However, despite promises to make amends and dispose of cases quickly, no such action had been taken. The forum has approached C M's office, submitted memorandums to the P M's office as well as Housing Minister, V Somanna, and Home Minister.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

17th January: Capricorn is my sign of the day. We know this region of the zodiac as supremely practical, but it was not always so. In ancient times the Capricornian Goat was pictured dangling its tail in water, symbolising deep emotion and hidden feelings. Capricornian people are not to be underestimated!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Make an early start to the day - as early as you can. Also, don't be embarrassed about needing or wanting more money, but do realise that what is really important is to be as generous with others as you would like to be with yourself. That's as good a way to build a better future as any!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Today's passionate Moon should finally make it clear that while others' misconduct or obstruction has indeed been responsible for many of your problems, you may also have played your part! That's why there's little to be gained from attributing blame. What you can change now are your attitudes and responses.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You have the freedom to choose between different options - and don't forget it! Right now, you're facing the sort of decisions which carry ethical or moral implications: you'll have to elect between right and wrong. Also, turn your attention to dreams of travel.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
There's a distinct mood of passion and romance in the air today. If you're foot-loose and fancy-free, this is wonderful for those of you currently on the trail of a new love, and even at work you'll be able to apply your broad and colourful imagination.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You would be wise to concentrate as much as you possibly can on home and family affairs. It is essential to take every part of your life in order, and not to attempt any new worldly initiative unless you are personally happy. The last thing you want to do is get stuck in a set of problems which is none of your making.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
There's an almost educational feel in your chart today, so everything seems to hinge around facts and information. In other words, there could yet be something very important for you to find out. Your natural curiosity may get the better of you, so make a point of asking others what they think.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
You may be stretched to the limit today. Don't wait for others to force the pace, but extend your own possibilities by accepting invitations in the belief that you are bound to succeed. The times are on your side, so please go forward with confidence.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Everything in all personal departments is now looking quite exceptionally helpful. Your best shot will be to help yourself by getting the facts straight and taking family members into your confidence. What you need to do now is get other people on your team - and soon.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
I would expect a rash of strange and energetic dreams in the wee hours of the morning, so if you should wake up feeling strangely worn out, this is the reason! Actually, one activity you can enjoy later on is day-dreaming, so you may follow your imagination wherever it leads.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You can't really function without proper emotional support and teamwork could prove a great deal more useful than expected. So, if you're sitting on any committees, or responsible for getting group activities on line, you could soon receive a valuable boost.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
It's a perfect moment for all ambitious and professional individuals. In fact, it's going to be an extremely useful fortnight for everyone pursuing major schemes and dreams, even those of you whose principle goal is domestic and family security.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You can't decide whether you want to be secretive and solitary or sociable and gregarious. You'll probably perform your familiar trick of keeping yourself to yourself even while surrounded by other people. Some might notice your absent air, but most won't!

THE PHANTOM

DAYS OF FREEDOM FOR BAVARIA... THE JUST PHANTOM GROWS STRONGER...
GREAT SHADES!
I'D SAY YOU'LL GET THEM BACK, BUT... ACTUALLY?
YOU WON'T!

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

I KNITTED YOU A SWEATER
THAT'S SO NICE! I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY IT ON!
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL I LEARNED TO KNIT
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

YOU KNOW HOW SOME PEOPLE FRAME THEIR ONLINE PICS WITH SAYINGS LIKE: "I VOTED" OR "I GOT MY SHOT"?
YES
WELL, WHY NOT DESIGN FRAMES FOR LITTLE EVERYDAY VICTORIES
LET ME SEE THAT iPAD
REALLY?! "I BRUSHED MY TEETH TODAY"?
YOU MEAN THAT'S TOO POMPOUS?

LOCKHORNS

"LEROY FINDS IT HARD TO SHOW BROTHERLY LOVE... HE'S AN ONLY CHILD."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I LIKE CARROTS NOW, MOM... LITTLE TINY ONES INSIDE THE CAKE."

SUDOKU

Hard: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

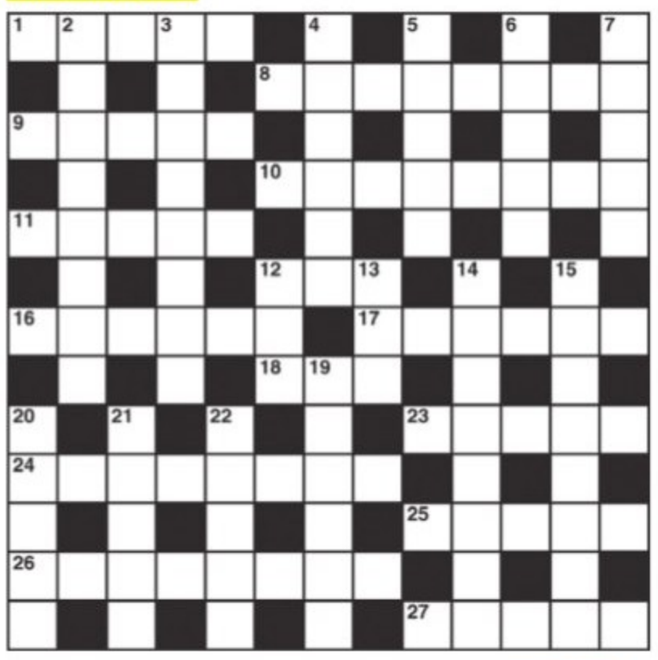
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

		7		9		5		
						8	6	4
				2				1
3	4		1					2
			9		4			
7					2		3	9
9				5				
5	2	1						
		3		4		1		

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

7	2	9	4	6	3	5	1	8
3	4	5	2	8	1	7	6	9
8	1	6	7	5	9	2	3	4
4	9	3	6	2	5	1	8	7
2	6	7	8	1	4	3	9	5
1	5	8	3	9	7	4	2	6
6	7	2	1	4	8	9	5	3
5	3	1	9	7	6	8	4	2
9	8	4	5	3	2	6	7	1

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 Stiff letter from Ingrid perhaps (5)
8 One's time of arrival (8)
9 Fuss about worship (5)
10 Like this place? Me too (4,4)
11 Propeller guard (5)
12 Leaves for some refreshment (3)
16 Clash as a result of industrial action (6)
17 Pirate treasure? (6)
18 Drink with a bite (3)
23 Ask some burning questions? (5)
24 Pretty useless object (8)
25 Half a minute or less (5)
26 The courtesy of the townsman (8)
27 Awfully eager to share views (5)

DOWN

2 Show I can edit the right way (8)
3 Is following a serial about Jews (8)
4 Angry words from one in business (6)
5 Sprinkle the last of the pepper in the hash (5)
6 They're used for cutting borders (5)
7 Music makers that sound unbelievable (5)
12 A number in attendance (3)
13 Tree sap perhaps (3)
14 Frightening the French into preparing for war (8)
15 Irrigation project finished? Nice work! (4,4)
19 Light in it for example goes out (6)
20 Concentrate on making people look sharp? (5)
21 Rebukes with upturned noses? (5)
22 Put me in and the answer's correct (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Midshipman, 6 Stew, 10 Yacht, 11 Come round, 12 Zeppelin, 13 Caste, 15 Discuss, 17 Alarmed, 19 Nostril, 21 Armoury, 22 Moses, 24 Torrents, 27 Eccentric, 28 Astir, 29 So-so, 30 All the same.

Down: 1 Mayo, 2 Decreases, 3 Het up, 4 Pickles, 5 Armenia, 7 Truss, 8 Wednesdays, 9 Proclaim, 14 Odd numbers, 16 Uprising, 18 Mount Etna, 20 Lateral, 21 Apricot, 23 Socks, 25 Evade, 26 Free.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUMDO
FRIDT
GTUTAH
CULNMO

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Today's Guest JUMBLER is WILL HENRY creator of WALLACE THE BRAVE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S **Jumbles:**
TAKEN LINER COMEDY BOBBLE
ANSWER: This dog prefers a good nap instead of adventure. He was – BORN TO BE MILD

Veteran Kannada litterateur Nadoja Chennaveera Kanavi tested Covid positive on January 14 and is undergoing treatment at SDM Hospital in Dharwad. Hospital authorities confirmed that his health condition is improving and he has been shifted to the ICU for observation

TRACKING COVID-19

DURATION OF PANDEMIC
1 YEAR, 313 DAYS

CASES REPORTED
Today: **34,047** | Yesterday: **32,793**

TALLY
Today: **32,20,087**
Yesterday: **31,86,040**

DEATHS	DISCHARGES
Today: **13**	Today: **5,902**
Yesterday: **7**	Yesterday: **4,273**

ACTIVE CASES
Today: **1,97,982**
Yesterday: **1,69,850**

POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
Today: **5.45%**	Today: **1.19%**
Yesterday: **5.41%**	Yesterday: **1.20%**

RECOVERY RATE Today: **92.65%** Yesterday: **93.46%**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

Bengaluru Urban	**21,071**
Bengaluru Rural	**722**
Bagalkot	136
Ballari	566
Belagavi	468
Bidar	178
Chamarajanagar	146
Chikkaballapur	287
Chikkamagaluru	135
Chitradurga	184
Dakshina Kannada	782
Davanagere	244
Dharwad	634
Gadag	117
Hassan	1,171
Haveri	55
Kalaburagi	562
Kodagu	148
Kolar	552
Koppal	80
Mandya	709
Mysuru	1,892
Raichur	143
Ramanagara	231
Shivamogga	287
Tumakuru	1,373
Udupi	591
Uttara Kannada	447
Vijayapura	103
Yadgir	33

No proof common drugs, potions can treat Covid-19

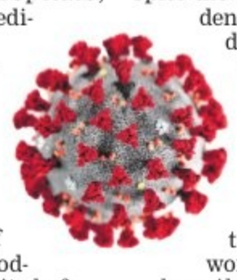
Docs from India, US write to govt on 'unwarranted' treatment

RANJANI MADHAVAN
@Bengaluru

IN an open letter to the Indian health ministry, state health departments, Indian Medical Association (IMA) and all medical professionals, 32 doctors across India, the US and Canada urged authorities to revise policies to discourage use of medications that have no supporting evidence for the treatment of Covid-19, including alternative therapies, potions, antibiotics, cocktails, drugs like Molnupiravir, vitamin combinations, Azithromycin, Doxycycline, Hydroxychloroquine, Favipiravir, Ivermectin etc.

Some of the authors of the letter include Dr Zarir Udwadia from PD Hinduja National Hospital, Dr Richa Gupta from Christian Medical College, Vellore, Dr Raghuraj Hegde from Manipal Hospital, Dr Satchit Balsari from Harvard Medical School, Dr Manoj Mohanan from Duke University, and Dr Bhavna Seth from John Hopkins School of Medicine.

"The vast majority of patients with Covid-19, asymptomatic or with mild symptoms, will require little to no medication. Such wanton use of drugs is not without harm as the Delta wave has shown. Outbreaks of opportunistic fungal infections like mucormycosis in India, and aspergillosis in Brazil, were attributed to the widespread abuse of inappropriate medications," read an excerpt of the letter, written by experts from hospitals, universities and medical colleges.



The doctors sought for the June 2021 DGHS guidelines to be updated, and in particular, provide specific guidance on the use of monoclonal antibodies, given their limited efficacy for the Omicron variant, and continued widespread use.

They called for stopping unwarranted diagnostics such as CT-scan and a battery of lab tests such as D-dimer, IL-6, especially for mild and asymptomatic cases, that places undue financial burden on families. They said a vast majority of Covid-19 patients will need no additional diagnostics after the initial Covid-19 test, and in some cases, home monitoring of oxygen levels. They further wrote that patients continue to be admitted to hospitals without clinical justification.

"There is now substantive high quality scientific literature that provides unequivocal guidance on the clinical management of Covid-19. Despite the weight of this evidence and the crushing death toll of the Delta wave, we find the mistakes of the 2021 response being repeated in 2022," the authors argued.

The letter noted that healthcare workers in India rely heavily on government guidelines which had unfortunately promoted expensive diagnostics and medications with limited evidence. The public and medical community are also subject to gross misinformation on social media. The doctors said it is incumbent on state agencies and professional medical societies to put an end to this travesty, in the best interest of the nation.

A road in Malleswaram barricaded due to weekend curfew, on Sunday | EXPRESS

UNLIKE DELTA, OMICRON STAYS CLEAR OF LUNGS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

WITH Omicron looming large over the state, a not-for-profit collective of doctors and healthcare and technology professionals have taken it upon themselves to explain how Omicron is different from previous variants of Covid-19.

Project StepOne has played a vital role in gathering volunteers and collaborating with the state government to both train and educate citizens on Covid-19, and provide services to those who have been afflicted with the virus. In a webinar organised by the not-for-profit startup, a number of doctors involved with the organisation broke down the aspects and features of the Omicron variant as well as what's changed from previous variants.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, one of the doctors volunteering at the collective, highlighted the differences between the Delta and the current variant, saying, "Omicron is a milder variant as compared to Delta, since Delta was quick to enter the respiratory tracts to the lungs, so patients with milder cases of Delta had pneumonia." He went on to explain that Omicron does not enter the lungs, instead it infects the upper respiratory tract.

He also said that the Omicron variant hasn't been recorded to rob patients of their sense of smell and taste. Further, while Delta and Omicron shared symptoms like cough, cold, fatigue and headache, they differed in that Omicron had a prevalence of cough with the presence of phlegm, and backache and headache being common. However, fever was on a lower scale compared to Delta.

Volunteers with the organisation said the collective would be involved in treating mild cases of Covid-19, as it had done previously. They also encouraged citizens and other doctors to become volunteers to help treat people free of cost, as part of the collective.

150 cops test +ve in Dharwad

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH
@Hubballi

AS many as 150 policemen working in Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissionerate have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last one week. This comes even as the district administration is striving to control the spread of Covid-19 driven by the highly- transmissible Omicron variant.

There are 2,100 police personnel in the commissionerate and all are fully-vaccinated against Covid-19. Also, the precautionary dose for the men in khaki has commenced as they are frontline workers.

A senior police officer said that most of the 150 personnel who have tested positive are asymptomatic and a few have mild symptoms. However, all are in home isolation and are recovering.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Hubballi-Dharwad Police Commissioner Labhu Ram said a couple of personnel tested positive on January 3, after a few more days, a few more tested positive. "Therefore, we tested all police personnel during the course of the last one week and 150 of them tested positive for Covid-19," he added. During the second wave of the pandemic early last year, as many as 100 policemen had tested positive in the district. A majority of them had availed treatment at Covid Care Centres. "Even a separate CCC was created to treat all policemen in a single place,' said an official.

B'luru sees fewer Covid cases on Sunday, slight rise in state tally

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, the state has yet to precisely estimate the spread of Omicron in the general infected population in Karnataka, as of the 5,091 infected samples sent for genomic sequencing, only 479 (9.40%) are found to be with the variant, while Delta B/B.1.617.2 with 2,937 (57%) and Delta sub-lineages with 1,350 (26%) are still the dominant variants infecting the people.

But genome sequencing has not yet been opened to samples taken from the infected among the general public and has remained restricted to positive cases among international arrivals or those with travel history abroad.

On the brighter note, Bengaluru city reported lesser Covid cases on Sunday with 21,071 additions to the tally than on Saturday which saw 22,284 cases.

However, the state in general added 34,047 cases as against 32,793 cases on Saturday, indicating that the number of additions daily is gradually shrinking.

CANCELLATION OF UHQ RALLY AT THE MADRAS REGIMENTAL CENTRE, WELLINGTON FROM 27 JAN TO 04 FEB 2022
Due to present incr in COVID cases and restrictions the rally is postponed. Fresh dates will be intimated later.

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ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking)
EUCALYPTUS DEBARKED PULPWOOD SALE NOTICE
Ref.No. OP.001/EPW/2021-22/gen/1147, Date: 12.01.2022
Sale of about 3.94 lakh MTs of **Eucalyptus debarked pulpwood** anticipated from (63) Units of Eucalyptus Plantations of A.P. Forest Development Corporation Limited, proposed to be held through e-Tender cum e-Auction on "Konugolu" a Govt. of Andhra Pradesh e-Portal i.e., "**https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in**" from 11.00 hrs to 13.00 hrs (1st spell) and from 14.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs (2nd spell) on **03rd of February, 2022.** Units remaining unsold /unconfirmed will be exposed again on **10th of February, 2022, 17th of February, 2022 & 24th of February 2022. For More details** please visit the websites: **https://www.konugolu.ap.gov.in** & **https://www.apfdcl.com.**
Sd/- Vice Chairman and Managing Director, APFDC Ltd., Gorantla, Guntur-522034
DIPR No.625PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 13/01/2022

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. **E-Mail id :** crmd@cityunionbank.in, **Ph :** 0435-2432322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **City Union Bank Ltd.,** having its **Administrative Office** at **No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001** and one of the Branch Offices at **No.349, Komarala Towers, OTC Road, Chickpet Main Road, Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban - 560053** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **08-09-2021** followed by Paper Publication dated **28-10-2021** calling upon the borrowers **No.1) M/s. Aditya Construction, No.26, 1st Floor, 6th Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Bangalore -560094. No.2) Mr. Thyagaraju, S/o. S. Guruva Raju, No.26, SR Road, New BEL Road, RMV II Stage, Bangalore - 560094. (In his personal capacity and also in the capacity of the legal heir of deceased Mrs. Savitha). No.3) Ms. Sanjana, D/o. Thyagaraju, No.26, SR Road, New BEL Road, RMV II Stage, Bangalore - 560094 (In the capacity of the legal heir of deceased Mrs. Savitha)** to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being **Rs.15,83,524/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Four Only)** within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from **12-07-2021** with monthly rests.
The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 12th day of January 2022.
The borrowers above named in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd. for an amount of **Rs.14,46,971/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Forty Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy One only)** and interest thereon from **24-12-2021** till the repayment of entire dues.
The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
Note : That our **054-Bengaluru-Sultanpet Branch** has also extended Financial Assistance (SWAYAM GRIHA - SAL BR:54012000850704) dated **09-04-2010** requested by No Late Mrs. Savitha of you for which No.2 of you stood as Co-obligant for the facility for a total amount of **Rs. 5,00,000/-** at a ROI of **10%.** The same has been also classified as **NPA** on **09-10-2014** and the outstanding balance as on **23-12-2021** is **Rs. 40,579/-** plus further interest and penal interest of **2.00%** with monthly rests to be charged from **24-12-2021** till the date of realization.
Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
Property - 1 : (Property Owned by Late Mrs. Savitha Now Represented by Legal Heirs Mr. Thyagaraju, S/o. S. Guruva Raju & Ms. Sanjana, D/o. Thyagaraju)
All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Site No.21, formed in the Sy. No.193/4, Khatha No.193/4/21 (now under BBMP) situated at Kodigehalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk converted for Non-Agricultural / Residential Purpose by the Special Deputy Commissioner vide conversion order No.DIS ALN SR(N) 42/96-67 including all rights, privileges and appurtenances thereto and measuring : East to West : 40 feet, North to South : 30 feet, Total Area 1,200 Sq.Feet, and bounded as follows : East by : Road, West by : Site No.24, North by : Site No.22, South by : Site No.20.
Place : Bengaluru-Sultanpet Branch, Date : 12-01-2022 **Authorised Officer**
Regd. Office : 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001, **CIN -** L65110TN1904PLC001287, **Telephone No.** 0435-2402322, **Fax :** 0435-2431746, **Website :** www.cityunionbank.com

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Chief Project Officer Project Implementation Unit, Public Works Department, State Highway Development Project PWD Annexe Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru – 560 001
e-mail : cepiushdp@gmail.com, **Website : www.shdpkar.in**
Improvements of State Highways &Major District Roads under SHDP- Phase 4 (Stage-2)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 02/ 2021-22 DATED : 17.01.2022
The Chief Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites tender from eligible class - I contractors registered with PWD, Govt. of Karnataka for the works costing morethan Rs.15 Croresand lessthan 30 Crores pertaining to improvements of important selected State highways & Major district roads spread across the state to be taken up in below mentioned packages approved vide G.O No.: PWD E-188 EAP 2020 Bengaluru, Dated:03.01.2022 and PWD E-20 EAP 2022, Dated:13.01.2022under SHDP Phase 4 (Stage-2), as per standard bidding document (KW-4) and SHDP norms in two cover system. The tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	EMD	Class of Contractor	Duration
1	**5054 SHDP Improvements (Project) Total Nos of Packages: 57**	**Package wise Amount put to Tender may be obtained through e-Proc Portal**	**Package wise EMD may be obtained through e-Proc Portal**	**Class I & Above**	**18 months (Including Monsoon)**

Tender process details: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded in E Proc portal from **21.01.2022 to 16.02.2022 upto 13.00 hours.** 2) Pre bid meeting on **01.02.2022 at 11-30 hours** (o/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore). **3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders **16.02.2022Upto 17.30 hours. 4)** Date & time for opening of technical bid **19.02.2022 at 11.30 hours.** 5) Tentative Date & time for opening of financial bid **28.02.2022 at 11-30 hours. 6)** Corrigendums, addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in e-procurement portal only. Registered contractors in KPWD, Karnataka and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender.
Any information about the tendered works can be obtained from O/o The Chief Projet Officer,Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. and SHDP website www.shdpkar.in. e-procurement portal helpdesk telephone nos. are **080- 23010900 & 080-38013000.**
DIPR/DDU/Sreshta/2867/2020-21
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, PIU, SHDP, Bengaluru.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Chief Project Officer Project Implementation Unit, Public Works Department, State Highway Development Project PWD Annexe Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru – 560 001
e-mail : cepiushdp@gmail.com, **Website : www.shdpkar.in**
Improvements of State Highways &Major District Roads under SHDP- Phase 4 (Stage-2)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 01/ 2021-22 DATED : 17.01.2022
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Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	EMD	Class of Contractor	Duration
1	**5054 SHDP Improvements (Project) Total Nos of Packages: 5**	**Package wise Amount put to Tender may be obtained through e-Proc Portal**	**Package wise EMD may be obtained through e-Proc Portal**	**Class I & Above**	**18 months (Including Monsoon)**

Tender process details: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded in E Proc portal from **21.01.2022 to 16.02.2022 upto 13.00 hours.** 2) Pre bid meeting on **01.02.2022 at 11-30 hours** (o/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore). **3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders **16.02.2022Upto 17.30 hours. 4)** Date & time for opening of technical bid **19.02.2022 at 11.30 hours.** 5) Tentative Date & time for opening of financial bid **28.02.2022 at 11-30 hours. 6)** Corrigendums, addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in e-procurement portal only. Registered contractors in KPWD, Karnataka and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender.
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DIPR/DDU/Sreshta/2865/2020-21
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene
Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, PIU, SHDP, Bengaluru.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Home Finance | **Registered office:** ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: 1st Floor, No.165 & 166, Manjunatha Chambers, Shankar Nagar, Main Road, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore- 560096
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description ofproperty/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Doddegowda Basavegowda (Borrower), Vishalakshi Shekarappa (Co- Borrower), NHBNG00001274128	Site No. 20, Sy No. 19, Khatha No. 142/14-15 Site No.20, Srihari Layout, Chikkatoguru 19 1 Bangalore- 560017 Karnataka 560017. Bounded By- North: Site No 19, South: Road,east: Site No 14, West: Road. Date of Possession- 11-Jan-22	15-06-2021 Rs. 23,54,160/-	Bangalore

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : January 17, 2022 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited**

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
ICICI Home Finance | **Registered office:** ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: 1st floor, No.165 & 166, Manjunatha Chambers, Shankar Nagar, Main Road, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore – 560096
Branch Office: Ground Floor, Sri Raghavendra Mansion, No. 2767/B, New No. 83/B, Kantharaj Urs Road, 1 Main, Saraswathipuram, Mysore – 570009
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description ofproperty/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Chand Pasha M (Borrower), Jamela B (Co-Borrower), LHBNG00001291815	12th Main Nr Srs Signal Ass No 46 1 Bangalore Karnataka 560500. Date of Possession- 11-Jan-22	10-05-2021 Rs. 18,43,019/-	Bangalore (Yeshwantpur)-B
2.	Jagadish H R (Borrower), Thirumalamba R (Co-Borrower), LHBNG00001285305	NA Kengeri Village Kengeri Hobl 30 265 Bangalore-560500 Karnataka 560500. Date of Possession- 11-Jan-22	15-06-2021 Rs. 17,41,294/-	Bangalore (Yeshwantpur)-B
3.	Keshava B S (Borrower), Manjula S (Co-Borrower), LHBNG00001287070	NA Vaddarapalya 36 8 Bangalore-560500. Date of Possession- 11-Jan-22	27-07-2021 Rs. 53,11,615/-	Bangalore (Yeshwantpur)-B
4.	Narayana B R (Borrower) , Baby Rekha (Co-Borrower) , LHMYS00001283041	Site No -6 Janjar No - 722 Lalandevanahalli Grama Panchayath Kasaba Hobli Site No 6 Lalanahalli Village K R Nagar Mysore Lalandevanahalli Grama Panchayath Kas Na Mysore-571103.bounded By- North: Private Land, South: Road, East: Private Property,west: Property No 05. Date of Possession- 11-Jan-22	20-10-2021 Rs. 30,76,476/-	Mysore-B
5.	Naveen B N (Borrower), Mrs Roopakala K N (Co-Borrower), LHBNG00001288161	13th Crosshavanur Near Widia Schoolbagalagunte Village 32 Bangalore Karnataka 560500.	10-05-2021 Rs. 22,84,211/-	Bangalore (Yeshwantpur)-B
6.	Shankar A (Borrower), Alageshan N (Co-Borrower), LHBNG00001294689	No 59, New No 11/28, 4th A Cro, SS Kemp Apura Agr Ahara Bangalore, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560023.	27-07-2021 Rs. 30,36,161/-	Bangalore (Yeshwantpur)-B

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : January 17, 2022 **Authorized Officer**
Place: Bangalore, K R Nagar **ICICI Home Finance Company Limited**

QuoteExpress
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND
❯ THEODORE ROOSEVELT

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar on Sunday said that the State Government is ready to face the third wave of Covid-19. The countrywide vaccination drive against Covid-19 completed one year on Sunday. Dr Sudhakar said that as of now over 9 crore vaccinations have been administered in Karnataka

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Good rustic advice for Cong's Big 2

The suspended Mekedatu padayatra, which was organised by the Congress party to push for the Mekedatu dam project on the river Cauvery, was an eye-opener of sorts for its two main protagonists – former chief minister and CLP leader **Siddaramaiah** and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee President DK Shivakumar. Despite the fact that the two had put up a great show of bonhomie during the padayatra, the fact of their strong differences over the chief ministerial candidate was not lost upon the villagers, who had queued up to meet the leaders. Many of them reportedly advised Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar that more than the walk for water, it was important for the two to sink their differences and put up a joint fight against a formidable BJP. With the padayatra suspended for now, will the two sink in their differences is to be seen.

Drama continues in Sholay's Ramgarh

By the time the Congress party's Mekedatu padayatra reached Ramanagara, it had given enough torture to the administration. The top brass, including DC Dr K Rakesh Kumar and CEO Ikram, had tested positive and were working from home. The DC sent his deputy Javaregowda to conduct a Covid test on KPCC president **DK Shivakumar**, who saw red. Coincidentally, Javaregowda tested positive the next day, giving Shivakumar ample room to weave a conspiracy theory that the Assistant DC had been sent to get him infected. Ramadevara Betta aka Ramgarh, the setting for the famed 70s show Sholay, was host yet again to a drama of sorts, this time political. The wall painting at the railway station in Karnataka's Silk City still has pictures of the movie. Nanjamma, an octogenarian, recalled fond memories of Sholay and also Julie, starring Lakshmi, which had run for 100 days here.

Group discussion on journalists' ways

Karnataka Chief Minister **Basavaraj Bommai,** who was here a few days ago to inaugurate the 36th State Level Journalists' Conference organised by the Karnataka Union of Working Journalists, raised the point of groupism in his inaugural speech, to make the journalists present introspect into their way of working. He said journalists indulge in groupism, though they criticise political parties for such a fault — he thought groupism exists only in political parties, but was relieved when he learnt that groupism also exists among journalists, considered the fourth pillar of democracy. Bommai said his sincere wish is that groupism in any field should not come in the way of developing society.

Bommai's trusted Men Friday

CM Basavaraj Bommai has become ultra cautious, especially after the Bitcoin scam surfaced, and the opposition has been making a hue and cry about it. The talk in political circles is that he is using his personal cell phone sparingly, and instead, depends on the mobiles of his two trustworthy confidants, H and D. Not much, though, is known about the pair — Harish and Devaraj — who keep to the shadows and are still a mystery to many.

Yatra or poll rally? Locals say season has begun

Villagers along the Mekedatu padayatra route clued into the politics of Congress march

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Kanakapura

THE heat and dust kicked up by the Mekedatu padayatra seems to have settled down, and the opinion among the locals along the route is that the march, led by Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D K Shivakumar, was nothing short of an election rally. The padayatra, which started at the Cauvery Sangama, reached Ramangara before the Karnataka High Court rapped the administration for allowing the march, forcing the Congress to abort it.

The people here drew many similarities between the padayatra and an election rally – the pomp and show, and generous spending, and outsiders suddenly descending to bulk up the yatra. They are also guesstimating what it must have cost the party.

While the older generation is wondering about the Mekedatu project, the common talk here is about Shivakumar's expansive growth in the area and many anecdotes about him -- both in favour and against. "It was like an election rally we have never witnessed here. All his supporters cashed in on it, while the others were ignored. During elections, they would push us to take cash though we ignored them," rued a woman in Doddalahalli, Shivakumar's home town.

"Yava nakshatradalli huttiddano gottilla (we don't know which star's blessing he was born with), he is so daring and was not bothered about going to jail. He has lived like that... Why should one live long without making any mark?" remarked octogenarian Thimmavva, who runs a petty shop and has seen Shivakumar's phenomenal growth.

But the High Court pulling up Shivakumar for the padayatra, in defiance of Covid-19 protocol, has been taken note of too, and though illiterate, the people here are up to date on the political goings-on. "You know the court rapped him, following which he was forced to stop the padayatra," Madamma said with sarcasm. Not just this, opposition leader Siddaramaiah skipping the padayatra on the first day, and Shivakumar fumbling on various occasions, starting with slipping on a rock at Sangama, are being joked about too.

Cattle quench their thirst at Madivala village in Ramanagara district which is located at the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project site. Several villages like Madivala will submerge once the project is implemented | EXPRESS

The people, who never used to mask up even when the cases began to go up in the taluk, have started wearing masks. "We are afraid as outsiders from Bengaluru and even as far as Bagalkot have entered our region, and may spread the virus," remarked Narayana.

Most of the people are either suspicious or skeptical about implementation of the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project across the Cauvery.

"It is good that Shivakumar held a padayatra as it will help us get Cauvery water for drinking. But will Tamil Nadu let us implement it?" asked Mohan, a powerloom owner in Kanakapura town.

Free fuel for bikes

The youths here got their motorbikes filled with free fuel and are naturally impressed, alleged Shivarenuka, a resident of Doddalahalli and Shivakumar's arch rival on his home turf.

"Since the Congress got wind that its popularity was waning, they took up the padayatra to organise the party workers. A huge amount was invested and in Doddalahalli alone, coupons of Rs 300 each were issued to 1,000 youths to get their two wheelers filled with fuel at a local petrol pump every day of the padayatra," he alleged.

Rs 310 cr allocated to repair 7,000 km of damaged roads

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

WHILE there has been significant damage to roads and civic infrastructure across the state following the recent heavy rain and floods, the Public Works Department is working on a plan to repair and restore these stretches.

Department sources said that around 7,000 km of roads have been damaged, of which 4,850 km are district roads and 2,236 km are state highways. Over 1,500 bridges and culverts too have been damaged that need repairs.

The damage is estimated at around Rs 3,500 crore and an estimated Rs 730 crore is needed for repairs, they said. Rs 310 crore has been allotted to four zones and 766 projects are under progress. Rs 230 crore was allocated to the North Zone, Rs 38 crore to the Central Zone and Rs 15 crore to the North-east zone. Apart from this, additional funds of Rs 45 crore has been allocated to South Zone, Rs 70 crore to North Zone, Rs 81 crore to Central Zone and Rs 55 crore to North-east Zone.

Of the 7,000 km of damaged roads, 4,850 km are district roads and 2,236 km are state highways | EXPRESS

PWD Minister CC Patil said, "We would like to complete all pending works by March-end."

Department sources said, "To maintain uniformity, we are planning to introduce standard rates among different engineering departments. A technical working group has been constituted to study the schedule of rates of various departments."

Footbridges have been damaged especially in rural parts of coastal regions and the construction of wooden bridges will ensure safety of local communities, for which Rs 200 crore allocated in the previous budget will be utilised, the sources said.

The department has submitted a proposal to the Union government to declare the following roads as National Highways – Nargund-Belawanki-Sindhanur Road of 141 km, Sankeshwar-Gokak-Nargund highway of 127 km, Gadag-Mundargi-Jagalur road of 260 km and Tadas-Navalgund-Hebsur stretch of 118 km.

Covid norms go for toss at MLA's birthday bash

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Davanagere

EVEN though weekend curfew was in force across the state on Sunday to control the spread of Covid-19, Jagalur BJP MLA S V Ramachandra celebrated his birthday in front of his residence here in violation of the prohibitory orders.

Hundreds of people took part in the celebration, resulting in social distance norms going for a toss. A pandal was erected near Gullamma Temple at K B Badavane in the city. Social distancing norms were stamped out as hundreds congregated and were served food.

Apparently, police were on the spot during the bash and many officials greeted him. Ramachandrappa cut the cake and obliged his well-wishers with photographs and addressed the gathering.

Davanagere district, with more than 600 active cases, has been witnessing a steep rise in Covid cases for many days as authorities are enforcing measures to curb the spread. With police penalising weekend curfew violators, the alleged celebration of the MLA has drawn people's ire.

Supporters of MLA S V Ramachandra garland him on his birthday in Davanagere on Sunday | EXPRESS

Recently, Honnali BJP MLA M P Renukacharya took part in a bull-scaring event in his constituency, defying social distancing norms.

5L techies to work from outside B'luru by 2026

RAMU PATIL @ Bengaluru

AS the raging pandemic compelled techies to shift to their native Tier II and III cities in Karnataka, perceptions are changing regarding scope of IT clusters outside Bengaluru.

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) has set an ambitious target of getting 5 lakh tech professionals to work from such potential tech clusters in the next four years as the government plans to attract investment and create jobs in other cities and towns.

KDEM, which has been set up to bridge the gap between industry and the government, is focusing on development of tech clusters in Mysuru, Mangaluru and Hubballi clusters, including Belagavi and neighbouring districts.

"Our goal is to make sure that around five lakh professionals work from three emerging clusters by 2026. Now, around 80,000 professionals work from those clusters," Karnataka Digital Economy Mission chairman B V Naidu told *The New Indian Express*.

Information Technology (IT) industries are mostly based in Bengaluru and less than two per cent of the state's software export comes from other clusters. To boost industries in these clusters, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission has emphasised on creating co-working spaces and strengthening IT infrastructure as part of 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiatives.

> *Our goal is to make sure that around five lakh IT professionals work from three emerging clusters in Karnataka by the year 2026. Now, around 80,000 professionals work from those clusters*
>
> BV Naidu, Chairman, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

However, there are many challenges.

"The number one challenge is perception itself. Unfortunately, the industry always thinks that the tech industry can grow in larger cities. That is a perception problem," Naidu added.

The prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, however, is gradually altering the perception. "Around 40 per cent of the people in Bengaluru went off to their native places. Then people realised the same thing can be handled by people from Mangaluru, Mysuru or from Hubballi and the perception, to some extent, started changing for the larger companies," he said.

With adequate talent in those clusters, the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission has taken an initiative of bridging engineering students in and around those clusters with the corporate which led to 4,000 to 5,000 student employment opportunities in the last four to five months, he said.

Focus of 3 clusters

While the Mysuru cluster will focus on cybersecurity, Mangaluru will focus on all the FinTech back-end operations, and Hubballi's - which includes Belagavi - will focus on Agri tech and Edutech.

"We are very happy that companies like IBM started operations in Mysuru. An artificial intelligence company has come there and also one more Very Large-Scale Integration design services company will also come up," he added.

KERALA'S CHOICE

Cong slams rejection of Sree Narayana Guru tableau for R-Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru, Mangaluru

SEVERAL Congress leaders, including Siddaramaiah, BK Hariprasad and B Ramanath Rai, have strongly criticised the Union Government for rejecting the tableau of saint reformer Sree Narayana Guru proposed by the Kerala government to present during this year's Republic Day parade in Delhi.

Former chief minister Siddaramaiah said the Centre has insulted Sree Narayana Guru, a great social reformer, and it should tender an apology.

Taking to Twitter, Siddaramaiah said, "Is he not Hindu? Let the BJP calrify its position. He dedicated his entire life to reform Hinduism by fighting against social evils like untouchability. By humiliating his contribution, does the BJP have any face left to talk about Hinduism?"

MLC Hariprasad said Sree Narayana Guru is a saint revered by the downtrodden. The MLC said the saint preached equality. "This is the third time that the Sangh-inspired Central Government is insulting the great saint. Remember that he was recognised and respected by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr BR Ambedkar and Rabindranath Tagore. He started prayers to ensure the people from the lower sections do not move away from Hinduism," he said.

In Mangaluru, former minister Ramanath Rai said the Centre's decision was highly condemnable. "Sree Narayana Guru built a temple and gave entry into the temples for backward classes and the downtrodden. He batted for equality stating one god and one religion for all. Rejection of the tableau on Sree Narayana Guru who led a religious and social revolution in Kerala is a disrespect by the BJP-led Central government to the country's federal system," he said.

> **This is the third time that the Sangh-inspired Central Government is insulting the great saint Sree Narayana Guru**
>
> BK Hariprasad, MLC

"Guru was a great visionary, spiritual philosopher and social reformer who fought against the caste system, injustice and social discrimination done to the suppressed backward classes by the upper castes. Guru, who preached the doctrine of 'one caste, one religion, one God, has thousands of followers and devotees. By rejecting a tableau on him, the Center has insulted the great visionary and his philosophy," he said.

FIVE HELD

Dalits in Mysuru assaulted for entering upper caste locality

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mysuru

TENSION prevailed at Arasinakere village in Jayapura Hobli of Mysuru taluk after six Dalits were assaulted by upper caste youth for entering their locality on Friday. Five people have been arrested and additional police forces deployed at the village to prevent any further untoward incident.

The police said the six Dalits had gone to have snacks from a pushcart when upper caste youth entered into an argument with them. Other villagers intervened and pacified them. But later, the upper caste youth entered the houses of Dalits and assaulted them. The Jayapura police arrested five people on Friday after a complaint was filed.

But a villager, Mahadevaswamy, also filed a counter-complaint against five Dalits on charges of attempt to murder. A Dalit leader, Shivanna, said the counter-complaint has been registered against innocents. He demanded action against culprits and sought protection for Dalit families.

Superintendent of Police R Chethan visited the village, held talks with both groups and assured them of action.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

75 more start-ups to get seed funding in state

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ON the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav, an additional 75 start-ups will be given seed funding, he said, adding that the state has also launched elevate women scheme to fund start-ups launched by women.

"To maintain the lead position of the state in the sector, the focus must be on digital education and skill development through effective implementation of the National Education Policy 2020," IT-BT and Skill Development Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said on Sunday.

The Union government observed the 'Startup India Innovation Week' ahead of the National Start-up Day on Sunday.

A 40-year-old ragpicker was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants over a trivial issue in Kalkere near Banasawadi, Bengaluru, on Saturday night. The deceased has been identified as Mohan Kumar. Police are looking for the accused.

Massive fire destroys historic Sec'bad Club

Around 25,000-sqft of 144-year-old structure gutted in accident

PINTO DEEPAK @ Hyderabad

A raging pre-dawn fire devoured a major portion of the 144-year-old iconic Secunderabad Club here on Sunday. The fire reduced 60 per cent of the club's main building, which also houses the offices of its president and other functionaries, to ashes.

As many as seven fire tenders from different parts of the city rushed to the club, which was up in flames, in Secunderabad abutting the Rajiv Rahadari Highway, and brought the fire under control after battling it for hours.

Though the blaze was huge, it did not spread out of the building and also to the club's fuel station, located a few hundred metres from the affected area. If the fire had spread to the fuel station, the damage would have been extensive, officials said.

As a major portion of the building is made of wood, the fire spread rapidly resulting in huge property loss. The bar located on the ground floor added fuel to the fire. As the fire began early in the morning, and there was no movement of people, a major mishap has been averted, said fire officials. An area spread around 25,000 sq feet was gutted in the incident, they added.

After serving members on Saturday, the club closed at 11 pm, post which the clearing-up work continued for sometime. Around 3 am on Sunday, there were only security personnel and some kitchen staff around. It was the security personnel who first noticed the fire and immediately alerted the Fire Department and police. Before the fire tenders arrived, club staff tried to contain the fire using extinguishers, but to no avail since the blaze was huge, and had engulfed the building within a few minutes.

Chandana Deepti, DCP North Zone, Hyderabad City Police told *TNIE* that the exact cause of the fire is yet to be established, as the building was badly damaged and is now in an unsafe condition to enter.

Secunderabad Club president R Raghuram Reddy said, "It is very sad that the mishap of this scale has occurred. Right now, we cannot assess the damage in monetary terms. Only after the architects and structural engineers visit the place and assess the damage, we will get a clear idea."

Meanwhile, it was informed that the club remains closed for members till further notice.

A firefighter battles a raging blaze that engulfed the Secunderabad Club in the early hours of Sunday | EXPRESS

ADVANTAGE BJP AS AAP, CONG NOT KEEN ON GRAND ALLIANCE

NAUSHAD BIJAPUR @ Belagavi

WITH elections in Goa drawing closer, it seems extremely unlikely that non-BJP parties will be able to forge a grand alliance ahead of the February 14 polls as the major players, AAP and Congress, are not keen on it though time is running out. Despite the ongoing consistent efforts by All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) to forge a grand alliance, chief of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Aravind Kejriwal and Congress party Goa poll in-charge P Chidambaram have made it clear that they are not keen on a non-BJP pre-poll alliance.

After the launch of a 'Vision Document' for Goa in Panaji on Sunday, Kejriwal ruled out teaming up with other parties, mainly TMC, before the election. "We will certainly think of having an alliance of non-BJP parties post-election, if the situation demands. However, I feel AAP will be able to get a clear mandate. In the event of a situation where it becomes necessary to have an alliance, we will certainly think of it after the election," he stated.

Kejriwal hit out at the Congress in Goa, asking why people would vote for it. "After the 2017 assembly election in Goa, most of Congress' 17 MLAs joined the BJP. The Congress is left with merely two MLAs today. The Congress and BJP are the same, and Goans are aware that Congress candidates will move to the BJP if they are elected. It is a certainty that they will switch to the BJP if they win. When that's the situation, why would the people of Goa vote for the Congress," he added.

Speaking to a private news channel in Goa, Chidambaram stated, "It's a fight between the BJP and Congress in Goa this time." Commenting on why the Congress was not responding to the TMC's invite for a pre-poll alliance of non-BJP forces, Chidambaram said the terms and conditions of the alliance which TMC hinted at, were not clear. "It is not clear what they (TMC) have in mind about the structure of a non-BJP alliance. Many things are still unclear, like which is the lead party if there is an alliance," Chidambaram said.

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal campaigns in Cortalim, Goa, on Sunday | PTI

Hinting that his party is not keen on an alliance with TMC, Chidambaram asked why TMC was poaching Congress MLAs, though the Congress never poached their legislators in Goa. "In Goa, it can be only BJP vs Congress. And of course, if others want to join the Congress in its fight against the BJP, then Congress may have a plus to fight the BJP (plus is other non-BJP parties). It can only be Congress and 'plus' and that's all," said Chidambaram, trying to make it clear that the Congress would be the lead party if there's an alliance, and all other non-BJP parties will only be an addition. Sources in Goa said it would be a tough task for the Congress alone to fight the BJP, as many of its popular leaders elected in 2017 switched to the BJP. "In most of the constituencies, the Congress is struggling to find candidates who can win against the BJP. They are left with no choice but to field new faces in at least 21 of 40 assembly seats. It will be difficult for the Congress to take on the BJP without the support of other non-BJP parties," said Suraj Nandrekar, journalist from Goa.

Kerala banks see a decline in NRI deposits

RAJESH ABRAHAM @ Kochi

INDICATING distress in the sizeable expatriate community in Kerala, the deposits in NRI accounts across banks in the state have declined, perhaps for the first time ever.

The NRI deposits in Kerala banks have declined by Rs 533 crore for the quarter ended September 2020, to Rs 2,35,897 crore from the June-ended quarter, as per figures made available on Saturday. The decline in the NRI deposits indicates that expatriates are dipping into the reserves, as a large number of them have returned to the state following job losses, mostly in West Asian countries, in the last two years, experts said.

As of July last year, about 15 lakh Keralites have returned to the state from across the world, since the first week of May 2020. Of this, 10.45 lakh of them have cited "loss of job" as the reason for their return. NRI deposits have been growing consistently in Kerala banks despite the recent shift in the pattern of the Malayali workforce in the Gulf countries, focusing more on white-collar jobs, where the opportunities are fewer. The NRI deposits have shot up by a whopping Rs 54,867 crore -- from Rs 1,81,623 crore in September 2018, to Rs 2,36,490 crore in June 2021, before declining for the first time in the September-2021 quarter.

The NRI deposits should not be confused with remittances, which are foreign currency funds sent by NRIs to their families and relatives for maintenance and upkeep. NRI deposits, on the other hand, are foreign currency deposits made in a bank in the country by a non-resident Indian, which can be repatriated on maturity.

"The pandemic has disproportionately impacted Kerala migrants, especially those in the Gulf. This is evident from the remittance pattern since early-2020. Many lost jobs or suffered salary cuts and a substantial number, about 15 lakh, have returned to Kerala during the pandemic. All of these have contributed to a fall in remittances and consequently in NRI deposits in Kerala," said Divya Balan, assistant professor and a migration expert at FLAME University, Pune.

She said that since this pandemic-induced return migration was unanticipated and unplanned, many returnees are forced to withdraw money from their NRI accounts for their living expenses post their return as in many cases migrants had to leave the Gulf without receiving their benefits. According to the government agency NoRKA Roots, there are about 40 lakh Keralites outside the country.

3 kids die after measles vax in B'gavi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

THREE children died after receiving the measles and rubella (MR) vaccination in Belagavi district. In all, 21 children were given MR and other vaccine shots at the Salahalli Primary Health Centre limits in Ramdurg taluk on January 12. The health of four children worsened, and subsequently three children died, while one child is still fighting for survival at the hospital.

The deceased have been identified as Pavitra Hulagur (13 months) and Madhu Umesh Karagundi (14 months), both from Bochabal village, Ramdurg taluk, and Chetan (15 months) from Mallapur village of Ramdurg taluk. Health officials said the routine monthly vaccination session was conducted at all PHC limits in Ramdurg on January 11 and 12. Twenty-one children were given the shots at anganwadi centres in Bochabal on January 12.

Grieving parents wait for the bodies of their children outside the BIMS hospital

The first dose for below one-years was given to two children, while the MR dose for above one years was given to two. The Penta and Polio vaccines were given to 17 other children. After two hours, the four children who were given the MR dose started feeling uneasy and had diarrhoea symptoms. They were taken to Ramdurg taluk hospital, where one child died. Another child died after returning home. As the condition of two other children worsened, they were referred to BIMS Hospital, Belagavi on the same day. However, one child died while being treated in the ICU on Saturday night and another child is fighting for survival at the hospital.

Bochabal Gram Panchayat member Bhimashi Hadimani said, "The monthly routine vaccine for children and Covid vaccination was arranged at a single vaccination centre in the village on January 12. The health department officials were not cautious while conducting the vaccination drive."

District Health Officer Dr SV Munyal said, "We have conducted the postmortem of a baby and completed all legal procedures. On receiving information on January 12, we formed a district-level Adverse Reaction Following Immunisation Committee and discussed this incident. We have collected urine, faecal and blood samples, and sent them to state and national level laboratories for testing. I have also directed the Reproductive and Child Health Officer to submit a report."

POLICE UNCONVINCED ABOUT GUNMAN'S VERSION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ACCORDING to Mathapathi's version to the investigators, he had requested the judge to grant him two days' leave on December 25 as he had to visit his hometown. The judge granted him permission. Mathapathi then reportedly consumed alcohol at his residence in Bapujinagar and left home around 7 pm to reach the travel agency around 7.30 pm to book a bus ticket. As it was crowded, he had kept the bag containing the pistol and the live rounds by his side. After a few minutes when he reached out to pick it up, the bag was "missing".

The police, however, have found several holes in his story. "Since the beginning of the probe, there is no consistency in his statements. He is not sure where exactly he lost the weapon and the bullets. When the CCTV footage at the travel agency was checked, no clues were found. He claimed to have taken a bus to reach Majestic from his house but losing the weapon in the bus was ruled out during the investigation. It appears that he has lost the weapon and bullets elsewhere, but he is not sure where. However, we have continued the probe as a pistol with live rounds has gone missing," a senior police officer said.

An inquiry has been initiated against Mathapati, who served in the Army for 17 years. He has not been suspended from service. "As per rule, one must deposit the firearm in the respective unit if they are going out of headquarters on leave and get a letter. But he has not done it in this case," an officer added.

The Upparpet police on December 26 booked a case under Section 379 (theft) of the Indian Penal Code after Mathapathi filed a complaint that morning, over 12 hours after the weapon and ammunition went missing.

CRIME PATROL

A dog squad inspects the scene of the crime in Sankeshwar on Sunday | EXPRESS

Widow shot dead in Belagavi district

BELAGAVI: A 55-year-old woman was allegedly shot and murdered by unknown suspects in Sankeshwar town of Hukkeri taluk in the wee hours of Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Shailaja aliyas Gourawwa Niranjan Subhedar (55). Sources said unknown people murdered Shailaja, by firing a bullet into her chest and head at her residence, when she was asleep. It is suspected that the woman might have been killed owing to a financial dispute. She was residing at her ancestral home, as her husband and son had passed away. Police are investigating.

Goods worth Rs 10L lost in godown fire

BENGALURU: An accidental fire broke out at a godown of a furniture manufacturing unit in JP Nagar on Sunday morning. Seven fire tenders were pressed into the service. Fortunately, no casualty was reported, Puttenahalli police said. A senior police officer said that the incident occurred around 5.30 am. A fire broke out at the godown, before spreading to a scrap dealer shop nearby. Residents alerted the Fire department, whose personnel rushed to the spot and doused the blaze in a 3-hours operation. Goods to the tue of Rs 10 lakh are estimated to have been gutted in the mishap.

Robber held for stabbing finance firm agent

BENGALURU: JC Nagar police on Sunday arrested a notorious robber, who had stabbed a finance company agent and escaped with cash and other valuables. The accused was involved 16 robberies in and around the city. The arrested has been identified as Tabrez Pasha, a resident of DJ Halli. A senior police officer said that on December 17, last year, Pasha had robbed an agent of a private finance company, after attacking him with a knife point, and then went absconding. The victim had collected chit fund money from vendors in the area, and was followed by Pasha on his bike. As he tried to resist the robbery attempt, Pasha attacked him, leaving him with minor injuries. He later recovered and approached the police.

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The Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **RBL Bank Ltd.** has taken **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 9 of the said rules as per detail below:

Sl. No.	Name of Accounts and Address of the Borrowers/ Guarantors/Mortgagors	Demand Notice date	Amount Due (Rs.)	Details of the immovable property for which Symbolic Possession is taken	Date of Symbolic Possession
1	**MR. MANISH KUMAR,** #201, Airview Homes, I Cross B-BLK, Vinayaka Nagar, Bangalore-560017. **Also at..... M/S. ANZ INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,** Embassy Golf Links Business, Bangalore-560071 **(Borrower, Mortgagor and Guarantor).**	25.10.2021	**Rs. 25,58,404.22 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Four And Twenty Two Paisa Only)** With further interest and charges thereon.	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY (Description of the entire property on which Apartment Complex is constructed): All that piece and parcel of immovable property comprising of converted land in Sy. No. 2/1(Now renumbered as Sy.No.2/1-A) measuring 01 Acre 20 Gts., bearing Khatha/Property No. 2987/1, 2/1 of Doddakannalli village Panchayath, situated at Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District; (duly converted from agricultural use to non-agricultural residential purpose by means of Order No. BDis./ALNS(E)/VB/SR/250/2003-04 dated 20-08-2004 passed by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District.,) **and bounded on: East by:** A.R.Shivarama Reddy's Property and Road, **West by:** Property owned by Mr. Rama Prasad, **North by:** Property owned by Mr. Rama Prasad, **South by:** Road. Along with rights of way, water, sanitary, easementary and all other rights and appurtenances thereto. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY: All that piece and parcel of right, title and interest in the 774 Sq.Ft. Undivided share in Schedule 'A' Property being the corresponding undivided interest in respect of Schedule-C Apartment. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY: (Description of the Apartment Unit/Flat herein conveyed to Purchaser): All that piece and parcel of the immovable property comprising in one Residential Flat/Apartment Unit bearing Flat No. G-02, measuring super built up area of 1541 Sq.Ft. Situated in Ground Floor, Aster-Block, along with one covered Car Parking Space in the basement floor, in the residential apartment complex **"MANAR SILVER SHADOWS"** constructed over the Schedule-A Property.	13.01.2022
2	**MR. SACHIN DWARAKANATH,** # 1396, 35th Cross, 17th Main 5th Block, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560043. **Also At... M/S. SEAGRAM INDIA PVT LTD.,** # 309, 1st Floor, Regency Enclave, Bangalore-560025 **(Borrower, Mortgagor and Guarantor). MR. SUSHIL DWARAKANATH,** # 1396, 35th Cross, 17th Main 5th Block, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560043 **(Co-Borrower).**	16.10.2021	**Rs.12,27,969.60 (Rupees Twelve Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine And Sixty Paisa Only)** With further interest and charges thereon	All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No. 1396, at present Byatarayanapura C.M.C Katha No. 992/2751, of 1st Stage, Hennur Bellary Road Layout, (H.B.R Layout) Bangalore, Measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 133.33 Sq.Mtrs., **and bounded on the: East by:** Site No. 1395, **West by :** Site No.1397, **North by:** Site No.1402, **South by:** Road. And there is 6.29 squares of R.C.C roofed house thereon, constructed with Cement and Bricks, doors and windows are made with Hoone wood, mosaic tiles roofed, with all types of basic amenities.	13.01.2022

The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **RBL Bank Ltd.**

Place: Bangalore, Date: 15.01.2022 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, RBL BANK LTD**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SMT.CHIKKATHAYAMMA** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and she has lost original Sale Deed dated 20/6/2007 bearing Document No.1828/07-08 Book I stored in CD 73 executed by Sri.Chennegowda, Sri.Cheluvanarayana and Sri.Shivalingaiah in favour of Sri.D.Raju & Sale Deed dated 10/8/2011 bearing Document No.3213/2011-12 Book I stored in CD 215 executed by Sri.D.Raju in favour of Sri.K.N. Shivalingaiah, both are registered in the office of sub-registrar, Kanakapura, pertaining to the schedule property. In case anybody is in possession of the said document, the same shall be handover to the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **PID No.39-503-47-27/7 formed in Sy.no.27/7 (Old Sy.no.27/3) situated at Kanakapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, comes under the limits of Nagarasabhe, Kanakapura,** measuring East to West 12.192 mtrs and North to South 9.144 mtrs, totally measuring 111.4836 Sq.mtrs, bounded on :
East by : Road. **West by :** Road, **North by :** Road. **South by :** Venkataiah's Property.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.276, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our clients, Mr. Ambady Gopal Menon, S/o Late Mr. A. G. Menon and Mrs. Nalini Menon, D/o Late Mr. A. G. Venkatesan, both residing at 1032, High Point, 45 Palace Road, Bangalore - 560 001 are the absolute owners of the following agricultural punja lands situated in Vellaputhur Village, Madurantakam Taluk, Chennai - MGR District:

1. Sy No. 393/1 measuring 1 (one) Acre and 20 (twenty) Cents
2. Sy. No. 396/2B measuring 1 (one) Acre and 45 (forty five) Cents
3. Sy. No. 393/2 measuring 1 (one) Acre and 29 (twenty nine) Cents

Our Clients purchased the aforementioned lands under the Sale Deed dated 25/01/1996 registered as Document No. 855 of 1996 in Book-I, Volume 1385 at Pages 221 to 225 with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Madurantakam.

Our Clients have lost the Original Sale Deed dated 25/01/1996 registered as Document No. 855 of 1996 in Book-I, Volume 1385 at Pages 221 to 225 with the office of the Sub-Registrar, Madurantakam pertaining to the said properties. Our Clients have lodged a complaint with the jurisdictional police on 14.01.2022 regarding the loss of the Original Sale Deed dated 25/01/1996.

Hence, all persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document and anybody who finds the aforesaid original document is requested to hand over the same to us at the address mentioned below.

Bhargava D Bhat, Advocate,
Samya Law Chambers,
No. 327-328, 4th Floor, K.P. Heights,
80 Feet Road, Indiranagar,
Bengaluru – 560 038.
Phone: (+91) 8296879810

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **B.C. KARTHIK,** Son of Late B.R. Chandramouli, At No.2&3, Anand Plaza Race Course Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bengaluru 560 009. I have lost the following original documents 1. Joint development Agreement registered before the sub registrar, Attibele through Document no. ABL-1-05842-2014-15 in Book I and stored in CD No. ABLD226, dated 31/10/2014 in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Attibele, Anneal Taluk, 2.General Power of Attorney Document No. ABL-4-00235-2014-15 in Book IV and stored in C.D No. ABLD 226, dated 31/10/2014, in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Attibele, Annekal Taluk. With respect to below mentioned properties.

SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY (BLOCK 'A' PROPERTY)

All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Site No.13, formed in Sy.No.54 (also referred as Sy.No.54/2) of Bommasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, having Amalgamated Katha certificate and extract issued by Bommasandra Gram Panchayath in Katha No.1658/54 (old Bommasandra Gram Panchayath Katha in No.318/312/13) and measuring East to West on the Northern side (38 + 18) / 2 feet and on the Southern side 50 feet and North to South (100 + 86) / 2 feet total measuring 4916 sq.ft. bounded as under:

East by : Site No.12 and 40 feet road
West by : Site No.14/12 (Part of Site No.14)
North by : Site No.15
South by : National Highway No.7 and Service Road

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY (BLOCK 'A' PROPERTY)

All the piece and parcel of the vacant Site No.12, formed in Sy.No.54 (also referred as Sy.No.54/2) of Bommasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, presently having Amalgamated Katha certificate and extract issued by Bommasandra Gram Panchayath in Katha No.1658/54 measuring East to West on the Southern side 69 feet and North to South (86 + 105) / 2 feet and total measuring 2967 sq.ft. with Triangular Shape bounded as under:

East by : 40 Feet Road
West by : Site No.13
North by : Site No.15
South by : National Highway No.7 and Service Road

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY (BLOCK 'B' PROPERTY)

All the piece and parcel of the Vacant Site No.15, formed in Sy.No.54 (also referred as Sy.No.54/2) of Bommasandra Village, AttibeleHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, having Amalgamated Katha certificate and extract issued by Bommasandra Gram Panchayath in Katha No.1658/54 (old Bommasandra Gram Panchayath Katha in No.320/314/15) and measuring East to West (90 + 113) / 2 feet and North to South (41 + 116½) / 2 feet and total measuring 7071 sq.ft. bounded as under:

East by : Road
West by : Site No.26
North by : Road
South by : Site No.13 & 14

If anybody found the same may be handed over to B.C Karthik at above address or contact 9611100500.

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

EDITORIAL

What is the task of all higher education? To turn men into machines. What are the means? Man must learn to be bored. How is that accomplished? By means of the concept of duty

Friedrich Nietzsche

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

INEXPLICABLE EC RELAXATION ON HALL MEETINGS FOR POLLS

A few clear messages and a muddled one emerged last week in the context of the upcoming elections to five states. Yogi Adityanath entered the Assembly election fray for the first time from the safest of seats in Gorakhpur, giving himself ample time to campaign extensively elsewhere in Uttar Pradesh. Though the mystery over his angling for the Ayodhya seat continues, Adityanath's X factor enthuses and worries the Big Two in the party in equal measure. If he does retain power, he would become the only UP chief minister in 35 years to get consecutive terms. And by giving close to 60% seats in UP to OBCs and Dalits, the BJP showed intent to arrest the bleeding of backward leadership in its ranks last week.

As for Akhilesh, he drew the BJP defectors. But giving them tickets at the expense of party aspirants or allies is not going to be easy. He has already broken off negotiations with Dalit neta Chandra Shekhar Aazad. This will be a closely fought election with slender margins of victory in various places. Aazad's ability to transfer pockets of votes could have given the SP a significant edge. In the Congress camp, after releasing a pink manifesto, Priyanka walked her talk by giving 40% seats to women in the first list, including to the mother of the Unnao rape survivor. The Congress in Punjab went largely with state unit president Navjot Singh Sidhu's choice of candidates, giving him little opportunity to crib. Where it would leave CM Charanjit Singh Channi, the new Dalit mascot of the party, remains to be seen. Channi regretting the controversial security breach during PM Narendra Modi's Punjab visit after rubbishing it initially is set to become a major poll plank. Also, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal did a *jumla* by crowdsourcing ideas for his party's chief ministerial face in Punjab.

The questionable reading of the Covid situation came from the Election Commission, which retained its ban on poll mobilisation in most forms but allowed restricted hall meetings. How would meetings within an enclosure be safer than, say, spaced-out cycle or bike rallies? Surely common sense cannot be given a pass to celebrate the festival of democracy.

DOMESTIC FUNDING NEEDED FOR START-UPS

The year 2021 became a watershed moment for the country's start-up economy with 40 firms joining the elite club of unicorns—ventures that have crossed the valuation of $1 billion. And even as the government predicts 75 more would join the unicorn club in 2022, the trouble is India's domestic funding system is not yet mature enough to finance the ever-increasing start-up ecosystem.

The current lot of unicorns have mostly been financed by foreign funds. According to data compiled by Tracxn, Indian start-ups raised $39 billion in equity funding in 2021, out of which $35 billion came from overseas. Foreign funding of our start-ups trebled in 2021, and such overdependence has its own issues. One of the reasons for this was easy liquidity infused by central banks across developed countries as part of their stimulus packages to fight the ill effects of Covid on their economies. Some of those cheap funds got diverted to our start-up ecosystem. Now the trouble is most nations have already started withdrawing the easy liquidity measures and that could affect funding. There's another problem with this overdependence—conflict between the Indian government and foreign funds over 'control' of the start-ups.

The government has been dragging its feet on allowing Indian start-ups to get listed overseas for fear of loss of revenue and oversight. The Centre has already expressed its concern over large start-ups establishing their parent companies outside the country and relegating India operations as subsidiaries. A parliamentary committee is already looking into the issue of domestic funding and has recommended that large institutions like pension funds and insurance companies channelise a portion of their investible surplus into start-ups. But India has always been conservative about putting such money into risky assets like equities, let alone unlisted start-ups. Indian Alternative Investment Funds also find it easier setting up funds in overseas jurisdictions like Cayman Islands for smoother compliance, and rerouting investments here rather than directly investing in domestic businesses. So the Centre needs to fix the system on several fronts to ensure easy availability of domestic funding for start-ups.

The first meeting of the new committee constituted by the TN government to look into the problem of refugees was held recently and there has been a heartening development

LIGHT AT THE END OF TUNNEL FOR LANKAN REFUGEES

V SURYANARAYAN

Senior professor (retd), Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras

SOUMYADIP SINHA

In the Swahili language, the term for a refugee is *Mkimbizi*, which means "a person who runs". In his thought-provoking essay on the Burundi refugees in Dar es Salaam, Marc Sommers points out that many express disgust at the continued use of the "refugee" label, even after two decades of exile. Some believe that "being *Mkimbizi* not only identifies them as people who were compelled to flee their homeland in fear for their survival, but who continue to flee".

The Sri Lankan refugees, who took asylum in Tamil Nadu following the genocidal attacks in July 1983, have been living between fear and hope for several years. In my long association with them, they have shared their innermost feelings—fear that they would be compelled to go back to the island, with its uncertain future. They often tell me of the dark days following Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, when in 1992, the then chief minister pressurised them to sign forms agreeing to their repatriation. The Academics for Advocacy, to which I belong, assure them repeatedly that times have changed. The presence of the UNHCR in Chennai is a sure guarantee that they would not be sent back to Sri Lanka against their wishes. On certain other occasions, one could see a glimmer of hope in their eyes. When Justice G R Swaminathan of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, in his landmark judgment delivered on 17 June 2019, instructed the Union government to consider the applications for citizenship submitted by the Sri Lankan refugees of Indian origin, they heaved a sigh of relief. They believed that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

The media report that the government of Tamil Nadu has recently constituted an Advisory Committee for looking into the problems of the Sri Lankan refugees and recommending durable solutions should be welcomed by one and all. The committee is headed by the minister of minorities and welfare of non-resident Indians and consists of a Member of Parliament, a Member of Legislative Assembly, concerned government officials, the NGOs working among the refugees—OfERR, JRS, and ADRA, a UNHCR member from the Chennai office, academics, media, and representatives of camp and non-camp refugees. The first meeting was held at the end of December. According to informed sources, those present expressed their views freely, as there was no formal agenda. The refugees and others expressed the view that the former want and should be conferred Indian citizenship as early as possible.

One heartening development should be highlighted. Those who have so far been advocating voluntary repatriation also extended their support for the citizenship proposition, to conduct a study among the refugees and report on their intentions through a survey.

Conferment of Indian citizenship comes under the jurisdiction of the Union government. And the Centre has enacted the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019, which would provide citizenship to those who have come to India—Hindus, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Jains—who wanted to escape persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The DMK has opposed the CAA on two grounds—first, it is not in conformity with India's secular Constitution, as it discriminates based on religion. Secondly, it does not include Sri Lanka. During this period, I had suggested (welcomed by many including some BJP leaders) that instead of spelling out various religious groups, the government should have used the term "persecuted minorities" that would include non-Sunni groups who are also subjected to persecution in Islamic countries.

> Those who have so far been advocating voluntary repatriation also extended their support for the citizenship proposition now. ... The Tamil refugees have lived in a state of Trishanku or limbo for long. ... As the refugee poet Benjamin Zephaniah wrote: 'We can all be refugees.... All it takes is a mad leader.... We can all be told to go. We can be hated by someone for being someone'

Opposition to the inclusion of Sri Lanka is based on flimsy grounds. The home ministry maintains that it is not a theocracy. Though the word theocracy does not figure in its constitution, in practice, as Prof. K M De Silva has written, Sri Lanka is a theocracy. According to Tamil poet Kasi Ananthan, who is a refugee, more than 2,000 Hindu temples have been desecrated by Sinhalese-Buddhist fanatics in the post-independence era. Though both the Central and state governments use the term refugee, their legal status, according to the home ministry, is that of illegal immigrants and they have to go back to Sri Lanka. What is more is that the home ministry, on several occasions, has maintained that as illegal immigrants, they are not entitled to Indian citizenship.

A policy of confrontation with the Centre on the issue of citizenship would be counterproductive. Refugees would be the ultimate losers. Instead, Tamil Nadu should adopt diplomatic finesse and mobilise the support of Members of Parliament (including those from the BJP) to bring about an amendment to the CAA and include the term persecuted minorities. The amendment should treat the Sri Lankan refugees on par with those who have sought asylum from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. We should create a national consensus on conferring Indian citizenship on all those who have come to the country seeking asylum.

In developed countries, the conferment of citizenship is based on individual application. But in the peculiar situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu, it would be proper if citizenship is conferred en bloc on those who have sought asylum and their family members, their children and grandchildren, and in cases of marriages from outside the camps, their spouses and descendants too. In the case of the Tamil refugees, arrangements should be made so that they renounce Sri Lankan citizenship. In Lanka, caste certificates are not issued; most of the refugees are either Dalits or most backward classes; the government should ensure that the refugees are also issued caste certificates.

The need of the hour is a humane approach. The Tamil refugees have lived in a state of Trishanku or limbo for long; they need our love and compassion. As the refugee poet Benjamin Zephaniah wrote: "We can all be refugees. Nobody is safe. All it takes is a mad leader. Or no rain to bring forth food. We can all be refugees. We can all be told to go. We can be hated by someone for being someone."

(The author was the Founding Director of the Centre in the University of Madras)
(suryageeth@gmail.com)

PIPE DREAMS FOR INDIAN ACADEMIA — I

SHONALEEKA KAUL

Associate Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

In the New Year, it is customary to wish for good things to happen. In this two-part series, here are just a few good things one wishes happened to higher education in this country.

First, there is a need to free Indian academia from bureaucratic strangleholds. For instance, if you look at the rules for promotions in public universities ever since the 6th Pay Commission was introduced in 2006, there would appear to be an inverse relationship between quantity and quality.

The earlier system of promoting teachers just by virtue of their having lived out a certain number of years in the system allowed many individuals to slip into a complacent disregard for research and continued learning. However, the UGC's Academic Point Index (API) system now in currency, in the hands of recalcitrant colleges and universities, may have harassment built into it.

Teachers must garner a certain number of points per annum in a variety of academic and "extra-curricular" activities, and compile enormous folios of "proof" of all this over time, sometimes retrospectively, for every single promotion. These folios they must submit, in numerous copies each, to the powers that be. The latter then adjudicate on what is indeed admissible and what is not—a deficit of trust that becomes inevitable when achievements are assessed mechanically.

Yet, despite putting in the long years demanded (perhaps the longest anywhere in the world) and meeting, even exceeding the API required, there is no guarantee of getting your promotion, given arbitrary interpretations of the rules and unaccounted-for delays (15 years in a leading central university recently) by largely unsympathetic or helpless institutional bureaucracies.

Many feel the system may be, ironically, ranged against the genuine scholar-teacher, who could take five years to research and produce a great book but will be awarded a mere 8–12 points for all that (according to the 2018 rules) even as their colleague, publishing an expedient article in one of dozens of journals that have mushroomed overnight to cater to the API industry, can lap up 10–30 points per piece. Similarly, a host of administrative duties, membership of committees and financial grants are essential if you have to meet the required points, whether or not they do anything to make you a better teacher or scholar.

Promotions apart, there is also pressure on faculty to spend longer and longer hours in 'office' and teach larger and larger numbers of students. Oftentimes, pressed to fill seats, professors are required to supervise PhDs that have no connection to their own expertise. This is to the detriment of students and the discipline alike.

Moreover, their reading and writing is something that many conscientious teachers end up having to do on their own time as a result—after they return from the workplace, during weekends, holidays and ever-shrinking vacations, as if research were their personal affair and irrelevant to teaching. Scarce sources of funding, especially in the humanities, and impossible sabbatical rules—in striking contrast to best Western practices to which we otherwise aspire—exacerbate the situation. Most academics simply give up.

> We need more equitable structures of both knowledge production and dissemination. The internet has opened up new avenues but also brings with it fake news. It is mainstream Indian academics itself that must reform if authentic versions of truth and knowledge are to be widely available

Any wonder then that the average standard of scholarly output has dropped here? Or that our course curricula are languishing and many students regard admission to Indian degree programmes as "time pass", or stepping stones to institutions abroad, rather than rigorous and creative opportunities to excel in their own country? This is the real crisis of higher education in the public sector.

At the other end of the spectrum are commercial monopolies, redressing which would be another pipe dream. Consider the profiteering private-run educational institutes across the country. They cater only to students who can pay their exorbitant fees, and often poach on public universities for their teaching staff—people who, much like government doctors, flee to private pastures for fat pay cheques and different degrees of glamour. Left to their fate in the process are the lakhs of students who cannot afford these expensive teaching shops and have no alternative but to go to subsidised—and, sadly, stagnating—government academies.

This is not to say that all private universities that have come up in the last 20 years or so are not propelled by noble impulses or do not have a worthy vision of ameliorating the ills of higher learning. Some would appear to. But what is worth pondering over is that if these are to remain privileged islands in the sea of Indian humanity thirsting for and deserving of quality education, can they do justice to their own cause?

Not just places of learning, scholarly knowledge in general seems subject to commercial controls of access today, what with the steep price of academic books and journals and prohibitive copyright fees. The bulk of these profits by far goes to the publishing houses, not the author, who may have little say or share in the matter.

Surely what is needed today are more equitable structures of both knowledge production and dissemination. The internet and social media have certainly opened up new avenues but they also bring with them fake news, unsubstantiated narratives and disinformation. It is mainstream Indian academics itself that must reform if authentic versions of truth and knowledge are to be widely available. In the next column, we will see what direction such internal, qualitative change may need to take.

(To be continued)
(shonaleeka@mail.jnu.ac.in)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Most successful captain

Virat Kohli was India's most successful Test captain and led the side to 40 victories. Under his helm, India won every home series that it played. It also won a series in Australia for the first time and reached the final of the World Test Championship. In the recently concluded South Africa series, India's bowling looked one-dimensional and it missed a left-arm seamer, perhaps someone like T Natarajan who has a deadly yorker in his armoury.
Vineeth Venugopal, Pathanamthitta

Deserved better from BCCI

It is with great sadness that one learnt of 'King' Kohli's resignation as Test captain. He was indeed one of India's best skippers and the most aggressive and successful captain. While he did not set any standards with his behaviour on the field, his commitment to the team was unquestionable. I wish he had left with a series victory in South Africa. He also deserved better treatment from the BCCI.
R Sriramprasad, Bengaluru

EC, show more prudence

This is with reference to *Amid surge in Covid cases, EC extends ban on rallies* (Jan 16). The ban extension is a welcome and inevitable step in view of the rising caseload. But allowing indoor meetings of up to 300 people will negate the purpose of curtailing virus spread. When social distancing is necessary, allowing indoor meetings with so many is farcical. The EC ought to exercise more prudence.
Aanya Singhal, Noida

No masks in govt transport

Very few are wearing masks despite the Covid surge. In buses, apart from a good number of passengers, even drivers and conductors are seen without masks. This makes travelling by public transport dangerous now. The government should take this more seriously.
S E V Madhubala, Tirunelveli

Wake up from slumber

I'm thankful to the article *Why should the government run Hindu temples?* (Jan 14), which showed the reality. Hindus should wake up from their Kumbakarna-like slumber. Our intellect has been affected by the current Western education and we should think carefully about the repercussions of the steps taken by secularists and communists.
Prashant Roy, Brahmapur

Don't interfere in religion

The article throws bright sunshine on the Nehruvian brand of secularism. The secular government has no business to interfere in, much less control, the affairs of any religion, and this includes Hindu temples. It is clear that the Congress government applied different yardsticks for the Hindu dharma. I request the BJP to free Hindu temples from the clutches of governments.
Shreeram Paranjpe, Bengaluru

Welcome decision

This is with reference to *Court was keen on finding reasons to disbelieve victim: Kemal Pasha* (Jan 16). The observations by the former HC judge on the Bishop Franco Mulakkal verdict are important. It is heartening that the prosecution has decided to appeal in the HC.
B V Thampi, Thiruvananthapuram

A day without newspapers

Normal routine was affected for hardcore newspaper readers like me on January 15 as offices were closed due to Pongal. A newspaperless day is gloomy and throws readers out of tune with the world. Although there are electronic channels, they don't provide in-depth news.
R Sivakumar, Chennai

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**

Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya*** Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 58, No. 14 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Yogi Adityanath @myogiadityanath
UP is the first state where Panchayat representatives are getting full freedom to work. It's our intention that they should become 'smart panchayats'.

Ashok Gehlot @ashokgehlot51
BJP is indulging in malicious publicity for the sake of politics over incident involving mentally challenged girl from Alwar. This attitude is comendable.

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
We are striving to build sports infrastructure for all to raise the level of sports. Navi Mumbai & Panvel will become India's sports hubs due to facilities.

Door-to-door drive boosted India's immunity

While 90% of eligible population has got first Covid dose, over 65% have taken second jab across the country

Postal stamp marks one year of vax drive

New Delhi: Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched a postage stamp on indigenously developed vaccine Covaxin to mark one year of the inoculation drive.

This is a proud moment for Indians and the entire world is amazed by the country's Covid inoculation drive, he said at the stamp release event. Meanwhile, PM Narendra Modi on lauded the role of Indian scientists and innovators in developing vaccines in a short period "India feels proud that our nation has been able to contribute to fighting the pandemic through vaccines, Modi tweeted.

COVID TRACKER

1,702
New Omicron cases, highest in a day

7,743 Omicron cases in India | **28.17%** Rise in Omicron cases

15,50,377
Active cases, highest in 225 days

94.51% Recovery rate
16.28% Daily positivity rate
16.66% Daily positivity rate a day earlier
1.31% Case fatality rate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE government initiative to allow door-to-door Covid vaccination, which began early November last year, raised the full vaccination coverage by nearly 12 % while single dose coverage went up by over 5 %.

The Centre released these figures as India completed one year since launch of the mega vaccination drive.

In India, Covid vaccination drive was launched on January 16 for healthcare workers before it was opened up for frontline workers on February 2. Beginning March 1, all people above 60 years and those above 45 with underlying diseases were also qualified to get the vaccines. Vaccination was opened for all adults on May 1.

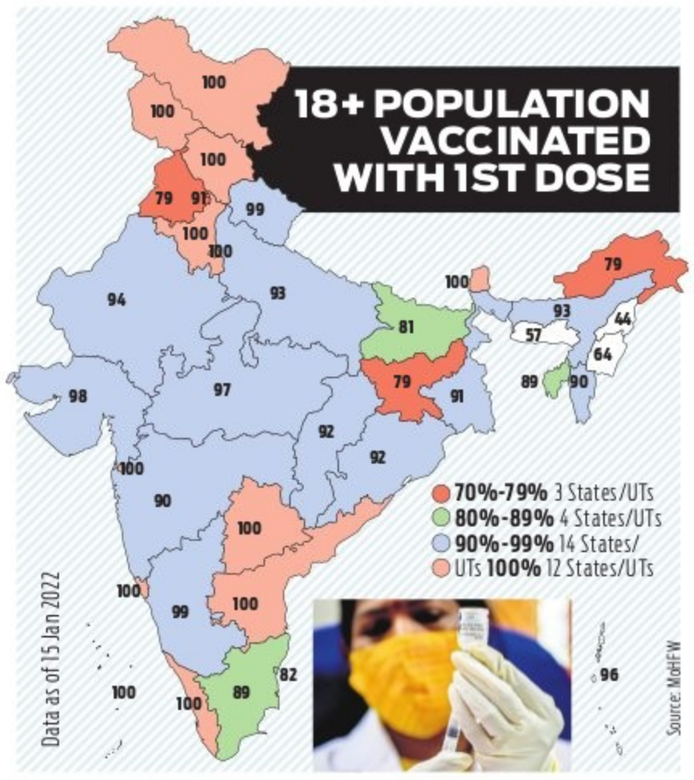
This year, the government has also included 15-17 years under the ambit of vaccination coverage while the third booster shot, to healthcare, frontline workers and people above 60 who have completed 9 months since their second doses, are also being offered.

So far, nearly 157 crore vaccine doses in India have been administered.

On Sunday, the Union health ministry said that India has already covered 90 % of its eligible population with first dose of vaccine. Comparatively, the US has covered only 73.2%, the UK 75.9%, France 78.3% and Spain 84.7% of their population.

As for the second dose, India has covered over 65% of the eligible population as compared to the US 61.5%, the UK 69.5%, France 73.2% and Spain 81%.

The ministry also said that 11 states and Union Territories in India have already achieved 100% of 1st dose vaccination, while three states and UTs have already achieved 100% full vaccination, adding that some others too are about to achieve this remarkable feat.



Corona shadow on maiden defence expo in Gujarat, event on hold for now

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@ Ahmedabad

AFTER Vibrant Gujarat, another ambitious event of the Gujarat government is likely to get postponed due to the Covid surge. The 12th Edition of Defence Expo scheduled to be held from March 11 to March 13 in Gandhinagar has been put on the wait and watch list as Covid cases have exploded in Gujarat.

Defence Ministers of 70 countries were expected to participate in the Defence Expo.

An official privy to the development said: "The Defence Expo was planned for the first time in Gujarat, former CMr Vijay Rupani had announced this earlier in September 2021. The Gujarat government had signed an MoU with the Defence Ministry. It has already sought guidance from the ministry and has been asked to wait as of now. A final call will be taken at the end of this month."

The official added: "A massive exhibition showcasing different types of weapons, defence vehicles, and artillery was also supposed to be a part of the expo. Stalls were supposed to be given and domes to be constructed for the exhibition. If the Centre had gone ahead with the event, it would have been an uphill task."

The Gujarat government has already postponed Vibrant Gujarat 2022 due to the Covid surge. The Defence Expo was to be seven times the size of Vibrant Gujarat. The three-day event was expected to see the participation of around 70,000 people.

The three-day event was expected to see participation of around 70,000 people

The expo was supposed to highlight measures to transform India into a military manufacturing hub in line .

A major highlight of the expo was to be the Indian-African Defence Dialogue in which Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was scheduled to host his counterparts from African nations as part of the dialogue titled "India-Africa: Adopting Strategy for synergizing and strengthening defence and security cooperation."

Omicron in 54% samples this month: U'khand

DEHRADUN: Out of total 159 samples in January, genome sequencing report, 85 samples were detected with omicron variant which makes it around 54% of total samples, the Uttarakhand health department said on Sunday.

But the department advised not to 'panic' saying that Omicron was replacing all other variants worldwide.

"A majority of the cases are asymptomatic or with very mild system and are are staying in home isolation. Hospitalization rate is very less as compared to previous wave. We, however, must not let our guard down and we have to follow all covid appropriate behaviour mandatory to reduce the transmission," said Tripti Bahuguna, director general, health department.

Dehradun has maximum cases of Omicron with 49 cases followed by Haridwar (14), Nainital (7), Pauri (6), Udham Singh Nagar (5) and Pithoragarh one. *Vineet Upadhyay*

High on hooch, Nitish's liquor ban hits low in Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE death of 13 people in over a day due to the consumption of spurious alcohol in Bihar's Nalanda — Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's home district — has provided fodder for fresh political attacks against him over the prohibition law.

The deaths were reported at Chhoti Pahari and Pahartalli villages under Sohsarai police station limit late on Friday night. The toll rose to 13 on Sunday with five more victims succumbing to spurious alcohol allegedly being sold at the village. The post-mortem of the victims has been conducted on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the chief minister has been cornered by the main opposition party, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), as well as allies Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM).

The RJD demanded that the chief minister resign on moral grounds, for his failure in enforcing the prohibition law effectively even after five years.

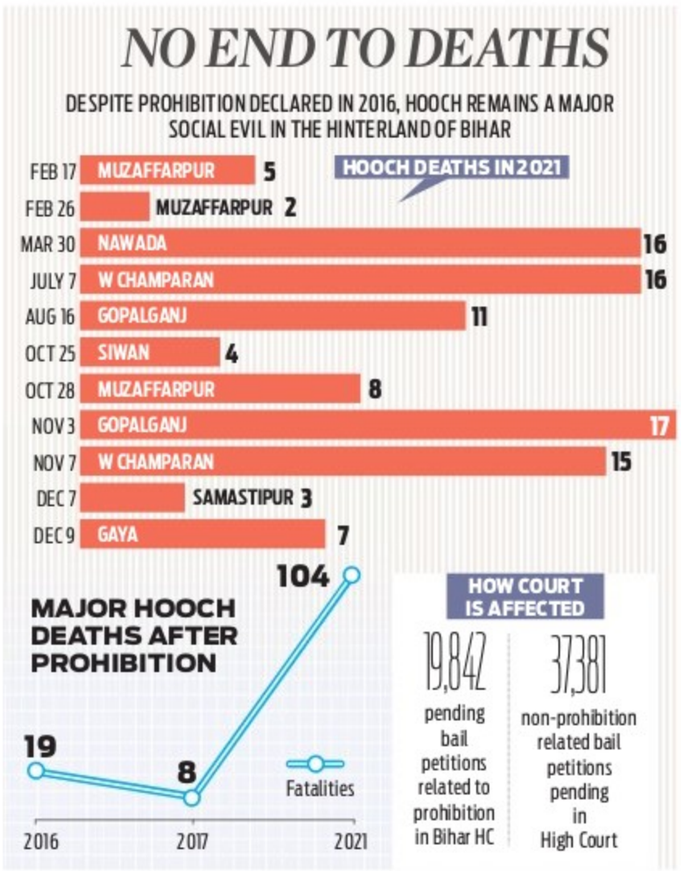
Toeing similar lines, BJP state chief Sanjay Agrawal called for a review of the prohibition law. "The law has failed to deliver desired results, and worse still has led to bootlegging. Moreover, majority of the people lodged in jails for violating the law belonged to the poor strata of society."

> **The law has failed to deliver desired results, and worse led to bootlegging. Moreover, majority of the people lodged in jails for violating the law belonged to the poor strata of society**
>
> Sanjay Agrawal, BJP state chief

The former chief minister also urged Nitish not to make the prohibition a prestige issue. "I hope he will consider the matter and make a decision in the larger interest of the people. Numerous families are on the brink of starvation with breadwinners languishing in jail. They don't have money to bear the expenses in court to secure bails for their relatives," he said.

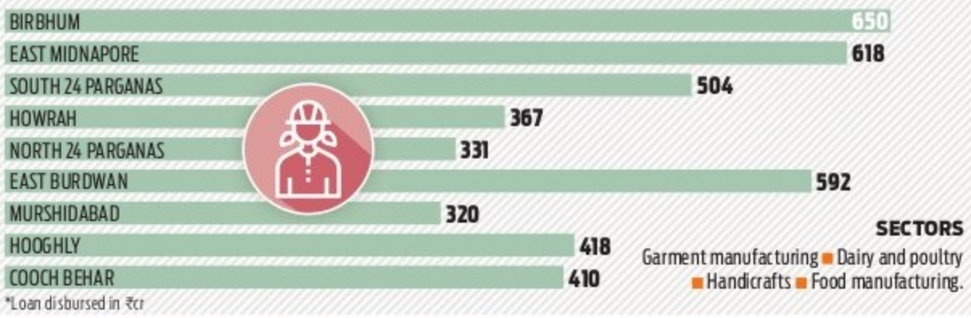
The state's prohibition law invited the wrath of the judiciary as well. After remarks of the Chief Justice of Supreme Court, the Patna high court told the apex court recently that there has been phenomenal rise in filing of bail applications due to enforcement of prohibition in the state (roughly 25 per cent of all regular bail applications consist of those filed under the Bihar Prohibition and Excise Act 2016).

NO END TO DEATHS


DESPITE PROHIBITION DECLARED IN 2016, HOOCH REMAINS A MAJOR SOCIAL EVIL IN THE HINTERLAND OF BIHAR
HOOCH DEATHS IN 2021
FEB 17 MUZAFFARPUR 5
FEB 26 MUZAFFARPUR 2
MAR 30 NAWADA 16
JULY 7 W CHAMPARAN 16
AUG 16 GOPALGANJ 11
OCT 25 SIWAN 4
OCT 28 MUZAFFARPUR 8
NOV 3 GOPALGANJ 17
NOV 7 W CHAMPARAN 15
DEC 7 SAMASTIPUR 3
DEC 9 GAYA 7
MAJOR HOOCH DEATHS AFTER PROHIBITION
19
8
104
Fatalities
2016
2017
2021
HOW COURT IS AFFECTED
19,842 pending bail petitions related to prohibition in Bihar HC
37,381 non-prohibition related bail petitions pending in High Court

SCHEME HELPING HOUSEHOLDS

Women are now exploring domains beyond their houses to become earning members for their families



EXPRESS READ

J&K L-G calls for improving living standards

Srinagar: Listing his administration's "breakthrough steps" for economic growth and equitable development, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said positive initiatives in the economic sector are imperative for improving the standard of living of all sections and creating a discrimination-free society. He said the people have the biggest role in stopping the coronavirus and urged them to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and say "no to third wave". Sinha highlighted the success stories, and voiced invaluable suggestions and insights received from citizens in the monthly "Awaam ki Awaaz" radio programme aired on All India Radio.

Parl panel invites feedback on bio diversity bill

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

A parliamentary panel has invited suggestions from all stakeholders regarding the contentious Biological Diversity Amendment Bill 2021.

The panel headed by BJP member Sanjay Jaiswal on Sunday issued a communique seeking suggestions from the general public, experts, and other stakeholders within 15 days. The comments will become part of the minutes of the Panel's deliberations.

The step was taken after the bill was referred to a joint committee of Parliament following objections by experts and a section of the opposition to some provisions of the crucial legislation.

The bill was tabled in the Lok Sabha on December 16.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had registered a strong protest and wanted the legislation to be referred to the department-related standing on environment, forests and science and technology instead of a select committee. He made his displeasure known to Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla.

Experts also felt that the legislation warranted comprehensive public scrutiny before becoming a law. The main criticism is that the bill has been brought to benefit only the Ayush industry.

The legislation seeks to amend the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, allowing traditional medical practitioners to access medicinal plants for research without informing the biodiversity boards to fast-track getting patents on such studies and legalising certain practices.

The Biological Diversity Act 2002 fulfilled India's obligation under Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, ratified in 1994. A three-tier structure of National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees is in place to protect the biological resources.

With men jobless, rural women in Bengal turn bread winners

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

PLUNGING family finances and joblessness caused by lockdowns proved vital, as a record number of women in West Bengal venture into small businesses. In the past nine months, 40 lakh women attached to self-help groups in rural pockets of the state took home a total of ₹6,000 crore as loans.

According to the state panchayat department, more women are turning up to avail of loans to ease financial stress, burden on children's education and daily nutrition.

The women availed the financial assistance under the state government's Anandadhara scheme after getting involved with the self-help groups. A big chunk of these loans was availed of in districts like South 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Hooghly, Murshidabad and Cooch Behar.

Hasina Bibi of Domkol in Murshidabad, the district from where most migrant labourers go over to the other states, said, "My husband was a fisheries worker in Andhra Pradesh and he had to return home after the lockdown in 2020. Once it was lifted gradually, he was reinstated. We spent all our savings to feed ourselves. I joined the self-help group and took training in knitting. I took a loan of ₹2 lakh and now I am manufacturing garments for women."

The Anandadhara scheme aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for rural poor, and improving access financial services.

Lakhs of migrant workers were left with no option other than returning home after the lockdown in 2020, said a panchayat department official.

Ambitious target

The Bengal government is looking to enlist 1 crore women under the Anandadhara scheme by the end of this fiscal. Currently, over 92 lakh women and 9.17 lakh SHGs are associated with the scheme.

"Many of them was not re-employed by their employees. They also could not manage alternative employment in the districts where they reside. In such a situation, scores of homemakers have come forward to run their families," said the panchayat official.

Dipali Jana, another homemaker, recounted her plight. "My husband was a brick kiln worker. During lockdown, he lost his job which was the only medium to run my five-member family. I could not find a way to run my family. My three children were suffering from pangs of hunger," she said.

"I applied for a loan of ₹1 lakh to purchase cattle and chickens. Now, I earn enough to secure bread and butter for my family through egg and milk production."

The scheme offers loan up to ₹3 lakh at 7 per cent interest. "If a borrower pays monthly installments on time, she will be given a subsidy of 5 per cent on the interest rate," said the official.

R-Day tableaux rejection irks Mamata

KOLKATA: Expressing dissatisfaction, West Bengal CM **Mamata Banerjee** wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to consider the decision of axing the state's proposal to include its tableau in the Republic Day parade.

This is the second consecutive year the Centre refused to entertain Bengal's tableau. Similarly, the Centre has rejected Bengal's tableau proposal in 2015, 2017 and 2020 as well.

The proposed tableau commemorating Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Indian National Army was sent to the Centre on the national hero's 125th birth anniversary.

"All the people of West Bengal are deeply pained by this attitude of the central government. Bengal was at the forefront of the Indian freedom struggle and has paid the heaviest for the country's Independence through the independence," Mamata wrote in her two-page letter to Modi.

Mamata found support from her fierce critic and Congress state president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury who too called it is an affront for Bengal, its people and Netaji. "This is an insult to the people of West Bengal, its cultural heritage and our great hero Netaji," he asserted.

Trinamool spokesperson Saugata Roy said it was unfortunate that Bengal's iconic idol was not finding place in the Republic Day Parade. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose also expressed his dismay on the rejection. *ENS*

No bail for Sulli app creator

New Delhi: A court has dismissed the bail plea of Sulli Deals app creator Aumkareshwar Thakur, saying that relief at this juncture will prejudice a fair investigation. It noted that the accused had consciously used 'Tor Browser' so that his identity could not be disclosed. "Probe is at a nascent stage where crucial evidence and further chain of events are yet to be conclusively unearthed. Granting bail will prejudice a fair investigation," it said.

POLL MARCH

Pawan Kashyap, brother of TV journalist Raman Kashyap who was killed in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence on October 3, 2021, joined Congress in Lucknow on Sunday evening

200 ILLEGAL PETITION WRITERS ARRESTED IN ASSAM

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	20	09	Mumbai	32	22
Bhopal	25	09	Panaji	30	22
Jaipur	20	09	Patna	21	07
Amritsar	15	07	Lucknow	20	11
Chennai	28	24	Port Blair	30	24
Kolkata	23	13	Imphal	23	05
Srinagar	06	00	Chandigarh	22	07

'SP IS PLAYING JAIL-BAIL GAME IN UP ELECTION'

Anurag Thakur calls out SP candidates who are either in prison or out on bail

ANURAAG SINGH @ Lucknow

HITTING out at the Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party, Union minister Anurag Thakur on Sunday said the party's list of candidates starts from those in jail and ends with those out on bail.

"The game of jail-bail is the real *khel* (game) of the SP. One of their MLAs and candidates Nahid Hasan (candidate from Kairana) is in jail, while the other legislator Abdullah Azam Khan is out of jail on bail," Thakur said here after welcoming 1994-batch IPS officer and former Kanpur police commissioner Asim Arun to the saffron party.

Focusing on BJP's prime poll plank — Improvement in law and order and crackdown on criminals and anti-social elements — the Union minister, who is one of the three central BJP leaders appointed co-incharges for the UP polls, said: "Those who indulge in riots go to the SP, while those who catch the rioters, join the BJP."

Welcoming the former IPS officer in the party fold, Thakur said, "Today's development has made it clear that officials with clean image are joining the BJP, while those indulging in riots are joining the SP."

Notably, the two-time sitting SP MLA from Kairana, Nahid Hasan was sent to 14-day judicial custody by a special court on Saturday, after the police invoked Gangsters Act against him. The other SP leader Abdullah Azam Khan, son of former UP minister Mohd Azam Khan, who won from Suar in 2017, was released on bail on Saturday from Sitapur Jail, after almost 23 months behind bars in 40-plus cases.

Will urge EC to keep some officials away: Akhilesh

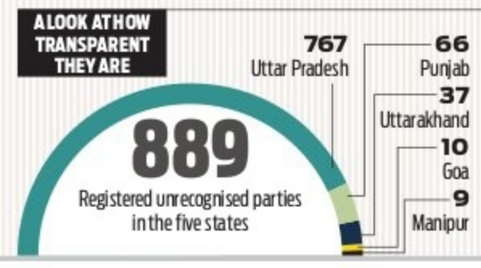
Responding to Anurag Thakur's jibe that SP leaders were either "in jail or out on bail", Yadav asked journalists to look into the Union minister's records in various ministries. On IPS officer Asim Arun joining the BJP, Yadav said he will move the EC demanding that those officials, who had been discharging duties with Asim Arun, be kept away from poll duties or else they too would "double up as BJP workers".

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2022 DECIDE

Among the five poll-bound states, Uttar Pradesh tops with maximum share of unrecognised parties

THE CURIOUS CASE OF UNRECOGNISED POLITICAL OUTFITS

A LOOK AT HOW TRANSPARENT THEY ARE



A LARGE NUMBER OF THEM DON'T FILE CONTRIBUTION AND AUDIT REPORTS TO THE ELECTION COMMISSION

2,858 Parties registered with the poll body in India

2,796 Are unrecognised political parties (97.83%)

AUDIT REPORT AVAILABLE
of 767 parties in UP
82 (10.69%)
of 66 parties in Punjab
6 (9.09%)
of 37 parties in Uttarakhand
2 (5.41%)

CONTRIBUTION LIST FILED
32 (4.17%) IN UP
4 (6.06%) IN PUNJAB

PARTY REGISTRATIONS
1,112 IN 2010
2,301 IN 2019
2,858 IN 2021

ECI should impose strict norms for the registration of an association of persons as a political party apart from taking the stringent step of de-listing those parties which fail to adhere to the rules. IT scrutiny of unrecognised parties should be taken up, especially of those which do not contest in elections but declare receipt of voluntary contributions

Association for Democratic Reforms

INPUTS: KUMAR VIKRAM

Parrikar's son struggling to get BJP ticket from Panaji

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

FORMER Union minister Manohar Parrikar's son, Utpal Parrikar, is struggling to get a BJP ticket in Goa.

After the demise of Parrikar, Utpal had staked claim for his father's Panaji seat in 2017, but in vain. The saffron party fielded Atanasio Babush Monserrate, who had switched from Congress, in the state. This time too, Utpal has raised the claim for the seat and announced he will contest from Panaji. On the other hand, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis said that being the son of a big leader is not a guarantee of getting a party ticket in BJP.

"People who have criminal backgrounds are getting tickets, then why shouldn't I?" Utpal reportedly asked party some leaders.

Sources in the BJP said Monserrate's is the only name beinf considered for Panaji.

MANIPUR MULTI-CORNER FIGHT A CHALLENGE TO NAGA PARTY

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE Naga People's Front (NPF) is facing a tough challenge of converting Naga subnationalism in the Manipur hills into concrete electoral gains, an uphill task in which it has fallen short in the past two elections.

The NPF this time will go to polls with its four MLAs and the burning issue of the unresolved 'Naga issue'.

Contesting the ascendant BJP, which heads Manipur's coalition government and shares power in Nagaland, the NPF faces a resource crunch but is not short on determination. Born in Nagaland, the NPF spread its wings to Manipur about a decade ago. It had contested the Assembly elections of 2012 and 2017 and on both occasions ended up winning four seats.

The Nagas have sizeable presence in the hill districts of Manipur besides in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Eleven of Manipur's 60 Assembly seats are considered 'Naga-dominated'. They all lie on the hills where the tribals live.

While the Nagas en bloc stand for an 'inclusive' solution to the Naga issue and the NPF is the only party in Manipur that carries the 'Naga' tag, the Naga sentiment or Naga sub-nationalism, however, does not get reflected in the election results.

The whole idea behind the formation of the NPF's Manipur unit was apparently to push the Naga cause. The Naga rebels demand a solution that encompasses the Nagas of Nagaland as well as Manipur, Assam and Arunachal.

The NPF has failed to capitalise on the Naga sentiment in the light of Naga issue. Party chief Shurhozelie Liezietsu admitted this by stating that elections are a different matter and sometimes, even two brothers contest elections from different parties. At the same time, he said the NPF is not confined to one community.

"We will try to win more seats this time. The NPF is new to many people in Manipur even today. It is Naga People's Front but a party cannot confine itself to a certain community. We cover others too. As of now, the people in Manipur think that the NPF is only for the Nagas," Liezietsu told this newspaper.

He continued: "We don't tell people in Manipur that the NPF is a Naga party. We say it is a political party. We field Kuki candidates as well. We also have other candidates. We want to embrace all communities in the true spirit of a political party."

The NPF is likely to contest 10 to 11 seats and Liezietsu is confident the party will be able to better its past performances.

Imphal-based political analyst Pradip Phanjoubam says there are two factors — ideal and reality. "The reality is that the NPF in Nagaland was opposed to the BJP until being united recently, and the ideal is that you talk about Naga sub-nationalism, but it doesn't get reflected on the ground."

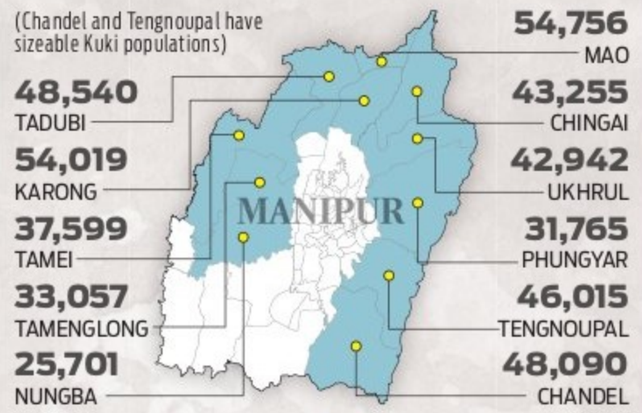
Once the Nagas had boycotted the Manipur elections and all the seats in the hills were won by Kuki candidates. Whatever ground the NPF captured in Manipur was because the party had projected itself as a part of Naga nationalism, he said.

Earlier, the contest in Manipur's hills used to be among the Congress, some smaller regional parties and independents. By 2017, the Congress had to face multiple opponents. There were NPF, BJP and National People's Party (NPP). As in the last polls, the seats in the hills will be shared by these four and possibly, some independents.

With political analysts predicting a hung House again, the support of the NPF and the NPP will be crucial in the formation of the next government. They are two key components of the BJP-led incumbent government.

FIGHT FOR NAGA VOTES

THESE ARE THE 11 NAGA-MAJORITY SEATS. FIGURES INDICATE THE NUMBER OF VOTERS IN THESE CONSTITUENCIES BASED ON 2019 LOK SABHA POLLS



THE LONG JOURNEY OF NPF

NPF was Nagaland People's Council before being rechristened in 2002 in Nagaland

NPF ruled Nagaland from 2003 to 2018 on the trot

It emerged in Manipur ahead of 2012 state polls

It won four seats each in 2012 and 2017 Manipur polls with identical vote shares of 7.2%

It is a BJP ally and a constituent of BJP-headed Manipur government. It is also a part of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party and BJP-led Nagaland government. NPF's focus is on the 11 Naga-majority seats in Manipur's hills

VIRUS METER JAN 15 JAN 16

	UTTAR PRADESH		MANIPUR		GOA		PUNJAB		UTTARAKHAND	
Fresh cases	15,795	17,185	87	119	1,710	3,232	6,883	7,396	3,848	2,682
Deaths	4	10	0	2	3	7	22	13	2	0
Positivity rate	6.10%	6.7%	NA	NA	NA	45%	19.46%	20.76	12.42%	13.71%

U'khand minister sacked; to join Cong today

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

MINISTER Harak Singh Rawat was dismissed from the Uttarakhand cabinet by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday night. Rawat was also suspended from the BJP for six years.

Sources said Rawat along with his daughter-in-law, Anukriti Gusain, will join the Congress on Monday.

"Harak Singh Rawat has been dismissed from the cabinet and suspended from the BJP for his constant pressure politics. Party and the CM had it enough," said a BJP leader confirming his dismissal. An official release by the state BJP unit at late night Sunday stated that Rawat was dismissed from cabinet and suspended from the party due to "indiscipline".

Rumours about Rawat's moves began to spread after he failed to turn up at the core group meeting of the BJP for ticket distribution.

The sources said the Kotdwar MLA had been demanding tickets for himself from Kedarnath and his daughter-in-law from Lansdowne seats.

Following the demand, the BJP MLA from Lansdowne, Dilip Singh Rawat, and prospective candidates from Kedarnath had warned of leaving the party and contesting from another party or independently.

Though the MLA had reiterated that he will not leave the BJP, he targeted the now-sacked minister who was one of the nine rebels to join the BJP in 2016 after leaving the Congress party.

"I don't have options like others. In my life it's only one seat, one party and one wife. Others may have options I don't," Dilip Singh Rawat had said.

Parties must inform EC within 48 hrs of selecting such candidates

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

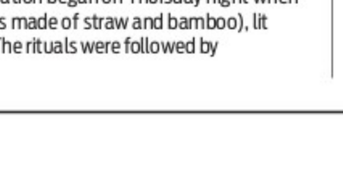
EARLIER, on August 10, the Supreme Court had said that parties will have to publish information regarding the criminal antecedents of candidates—including detailed information on the nature of the offences, relevant particulars such as whether charges have been framed, the concerned court, the case number, etc.—on the homepage of their websites, along with the reasons for their selection and why other individuals could not be given tickets instead. They also need to write to the EC within 48 hours of selection of such a candidate.

The reasons as to selection must be with reference to the qualifications, achievements and merit of the candidate concerned, not mere winnability at polls. This information also needs to be published in one local vernacular newspaper and one national newspaper as well as on the official social media platforms of the political party, including Facebook and Twitter.

To help voters make an informed choice, the Election Commission has now prescribed a certain timeline to publish the details of criminal antecedents: within the first four days of withdrawal of nomination, between the 5th and 8th day, and from the 9th day till the last day of campaign.

A tennis court makes Kohima's war cemetery unique

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati



THE Kohima War Cemetery in Nagaland has figured in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) five sites with 'unusual features'.

According to the CWGC, the war cemetery is home to one feature that is possibly not shared by any other cemetery in the world: a tennis court.

"Each of our cemeteries tells its own story. As you walk through and read the names, dates and regiments on headstones, you can build an understanding of what happened to the men and women commemorated there," the CWGC wrote on its official site.

The Kohima War Cemetery is a memorial dedicated to the soldiers of the 2nd British Division of the Allied Forces who died in the World War II at Kohima in April 1944. The soldiers died on the battleground of Garrison Hill in the tennis court area of the Deputy Commissioner's residence.

On April 3, 1944, a Japanese force of 15,000 had attacked Kohima and its 2,500-strong garrison. After two weeks of fighting, the defending forces were pushed back to the former house of the Deputy Commissioner. Those who had fallen in the defence of Kohima were buried on the battlefield, which later became a permanent CWGC cemetery. Colin St. Clair Oakes, who designed it, incorporated the tennis court.

Lhouvi Mezhur Sekhose, who is the manager of the cemetery, said the tennis court is no longer in use but maintained. It still has the turf and the line-markings, he said.

EXPRESS READ

Supermom tigress of Pench reserve dies

Seoni (MP): 'Collarwali', the famous tigress of Madhya Pradesh's Pench Tiger Reserve (PTR), who had earned the tag of "supermom" for giving birth to 29 cubs, has died, officials said. The 17-year-old tigress, also known as T15, died on Saturday evening, they said. She had given birth to 29 cubs in eight litters during 11 years — between 2008 and 2018 — the officials said, adding that 25 of the 29 cubs survived.

Alwar girl case: Rajasthan govt decides to recommend CBI probe

JAIPUR: The Rajasthan government on Sunday decided to recommend a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the case of the mentally challenged girl who was found in a distressed condition on a bridge in Alwar with injuries on her private parts.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

The state government will send the recommendation to the Centre for a CBI probe into the case at the earliest, it said.

The decision came a day after Gehlot said the state government was open to getting the matter probed by a police officer from outside Alwar or CBI according to the wish of the girl's family. The 14-year-old girl was found in a distressed state with injuries on her private parts on January 11. *PTI*

Fishers present CM Himanta 10kg fish on Bihu

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was elated after receiving a *'chitol'* fish weighing 10 kg as a gift. It was gifted by a city-based fish traders' body on the occasion of Bhogali Bihu, also called Magh Bihu. The CM said he was overjoyed to have received the fish ahead of Uruka, the Bhogali Bihu eve when the Assamese organise feasts. The Bihu celebration began on Thursday night when people got together around *'mejis'* (houses made of straw and bamboo), lit them and sought the blessings of elders. The rituals were followed by community feasts, organised in the fields.

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR
Our correspondent in Guwahati
prasantamazumdar@newindianexpress.com

GUWAHATI DIARY

Promoting nutritional behaviour with puppetry shows

The Dr Anamika Ray Memorial Trust (ARMT) in collaboration with UNICEF and Bodoland Territorial Council organised 45 puppetry shows, locally called *'putola nach'*, from January 8-12 in Baksa district to bring social and behavioural changes among children, teenagers and women. For a change, the organisers used both rod and glove puppets to bring alive the characters. According to the organisers, the main objective behind the puppetry shows was to promote nutritional behaviour among rural and urban population and create a *'jan andolan'* on nutritional benefits among people who are deprived of balanced and proper diet. Usually, *'putola nach'* depicts scenes from the epics such as Ramayana or Mahabharatha. Puppetry shows are a popular traditional art form of Assam.

Boxer Lovlina Borgohain is now a DSP

Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain is now a DSP. The appointment letter was handed over to her by CM Himanta Biswa Sarma at a function recently. She was inducted into the Assam Police as per the state government's sports policy. The CM said the Olympian made Assam proud by winning the medal and receiving the country's highest sports award. "I am elated at being given this opportunity to serve my people in the role of DSP. I am thankful to Hon'ble CM. But my main focus will be to bring a gold medal for our country in the Paris Olympics 2024," she tweeted.

Thief cooks *khichdi* during heist, nabbed

In a bizarre incident, a thief entered a house in the middle of the night to steal some valuables but his hunger led him straight to the kitchen, where he started cooking *khichdi*. Soon, the family got a whiff of his presence and alerted the neighbours. He was nabbed and later, handed over to the police. The incident took place in the city's Dispur area. In a quirky tweet that followed, the Assam Police said, "The curious case of a cereal burglar! Despite its many health benefits, turns out, cooking *khichdi* during a burglary attempt can be injurious to your well-being. The burglar has been arrested and @GuwahatiPol is serving him some hot meals."

British national is hostage-taker at Texas

44-yr-old Malik Faisal Akram was shot, killed after 9-hour standoff; Biden calls it an 'act of terror'

COLLEYVILLE

AUTHORITIES on Sunday identified a 44-year-old British national as the man who took four people hostage at a Texas synagogue for 10 hours before an FBI SWAT team stormed the building, ending a tense standoff that President Joe Biden called 'an act of terror."

Malik Faisal Akram was shot and killed after the last of the hostages got out at around 9pm on Saturday at Congregation Beth Israel near Fort Worth.

In a statement, the FBI said there was no indication that anyone else was involved, but it didn't provide a possible motive. Akram could be heard ranting on a Facebook livestream of the services and demanding the release of a Pakistani neuroscientist who was convicted of trying to kill US Army officers in Afghanistan.

The FBI and police spokeswomen declined to answer questions Saturday night about who shot Akram when the standoff ended.

Video from Dallas TV station WFAA showed people running out a door of the synagogue, and then a man holding a gun opening the same door just seconds later before he turned around and closed it. Moments later, several rounds of gunfire could be heard, followed by the sound of an explosion.

Police escort a hostage out of the Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas, on Saturday. Police said the man was not hurt | AP/PTI

"Rest assured, we are focused," Biden said during a visit to a food pantry in Philadelphia on Sunday morning. "The attorney general is focused and making sure that we deal with these kinds of acts."

FBI Special Agent in Charge Matt DeSarno said the hostage-taker was specifically focused on an issue not directly connected to the Jewish community, and there was no immediate indication that the man was part of any broader plan. But DeSarno said the agency's investigation 'will have global reach.' It wasn't clear why Akram chose the synagogue.

Law enforcement officials who were not authorised to discuss the ongoing investigation and who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity earlier said the hostage-taker demanded the release of Aafia Siddiqui, a Pakistani neuroscientist suspected of having ties to al-Qaida who is in a federal prison in Texas.

He also said he wanted to be able to speak with her, according to the officials, one of whom confirmed that the hostage-taker was a British national.

A rabbi in New York received a call from the rabbi believed to be held hostageto demand Siddiqui's release, a law enforcement official said. The New York rabbi then called 911. *AP*

Who is Aafia Siddiqui?

Malik Akram had demanded the release of Aafia Siddiqui, who is serving an 86-year prison sentence after being convicted in Manhattan in 2010 after being arrested in Afghanistan two years ago

- Aafia is a Pakistani neuroscientist who studied in the United States at prestigious institutions ' Brandeis University and MIT
- She attracted the attention of American law enforcement in the years after the 9/11 attacks. FBI and Justice Department described her as an 'al-Qaida operative and facilitator'
- In 2008, she was detained by authorities in Afghanistan. US officials said they found in her possession handwritten notes that discussed the construction of 'dirty bombs' and that listed various locations in the US that could be targeted in a 'mass casualty attack.'
- Inside an interview room at an Afghan police compound, authorities say, she grabbed the M-4 rifle of one of the US army officers and opened fire on members of the team assigned to interrogate her.
- Pakistani officials immediately decried her conviction
- In the years since, Pakistani leaders have floated the idea of deals that could result in her release

Taliban forces pepper spray women protesters

KABUL

TALIBAN forces on Sunday fired pepper spray at a group of women protesters in Afghanistan's capital demanding rights to work and education.

Since seizing control of the country by force in August, the Taliban authorities have imposed creeping restrictions on Afghans, especially on women.

Around 20 women gathered in front of Kabul University, chanting "equality and justice" and carried banners that read "Women's rights, human rights". The protest however was later dispersed by the Taliban fighters who arrived at the scene in several vehicles, three women protesters said. "When we were near Kabul University three Taliban vehicles came, and fighters from one of the vehicles used pepper spray on us," said a protester, who asked not to be named for security reasons. "My right eye started to burn. I told one of them 'shame on you', and then he pointed his gun at me."

One of the women had to be taken to hospital after the spray caused an allergic reaction to her eyes and face.

A fighter also confiscated a mobile phone of a man who was filming the demonstration. Taliban have banned unsanctioned protests and frequently intervened to forcefully break up rallies.

The Taliban authorities have blocked women public sector employees from returning to work, many secondary schools have still not reopened for girls, and public universities are shut. Long distance trips for women who are not accompanied by a close male relative have been banned. The authorities have also issued guidelines that prevent television channels from broadcasting serials featuring women actors. *AFP*

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PADMA JAGADISH**
W/o Jagadish Bhaskar Naidu
R/o No.9, 6th Cross
Surabhinagar, Kothanur Dinne
Main Road, JP Nagar 8th Phase
Bangalore - 560076
have changed my name as
PADMA U S, vide affidavit dated 14.01.2022, sworn before notary Aravind Patil G.G. Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC are hereby informed and notified that my client intend to purchase the below mentioned property from Smt. Sowbhagyamma, aged about 63 years, W/o. Late Sri. Hosallaih.H.S., residing at No.298, 12th cross, 6th main. M.S.R.Nagar, Mathikere, Bangalore North, MSRIT, Bangalore-560 054. General public are hereby notified that any person/s or in general any public, having any rights, title and interests over the below mentioned property shall file suitable objections with the undersigned along with documentary proof, within SEVEN DAYS from the date of publication of this notice or else my client shall proceed to complete the transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Site No.56, carved out of them converted lands in survey Nos. 17/1, 17/2, 18/2 and 18/4, of M.S.R. Nagar, Chikkamaranahalli Village, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, earlier assigned to Corporation Division No.1, now under the limits of BBMP having assigned with New Municipal Khatha No.10, of 12th cross, M.S.R. Nagar, Bangalore, assigned toward No.4, Ward Name Mathikere, Bangalore with unique PID No.4-58-10, Assessment Book No. Volume -3, Page 21 along with an old dilapidated shed, measuring East to West : 30 feet, North to South on the Eastern side 49 feet, 46 feet on the Western side {49+46}/2, totally measuring 1425 sq. feet {as per the Khatha Extract issued by the BBMP dated 3/1/2022} and being bounded on : East by : 30 feet road, West by : property bearing No.56/A, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.

R.N.NARASIMHA, ADVOCATE
Off/Res : No.16, I main, Nrupatunga Road, Nanjappa Layout, Mylasandra, Rajarajeswarinagar, Bangalore-560 098
Mob : 9448569510,
E-mail: narasimha.nn16@gmail.com

The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Limited

H.O, No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru - 560 018.

PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Auction sale under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforce of Security Interest Act 2002 Section 13(4) of the Immovable properties mortgaged to The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., is brought to Sale under **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"**

Sl. No	Name of the Borrower	Discription of Property	Balance Outstanding	Auction Date
1	Sri D.A.Raju S/o D.A. Antony Das No.801, 76th A Cross 6th Block, Rajajinagar Bengaluru-560 010	All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Old No.100, BBMP allotted site No.1114/5043/3016/100, Nagadevanahalli, Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore. Measuring East To West: 30 feet, North To South: 40 feet, in all totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft. and bounded on the East by: Site No.99, West by: Private Land/Private Property, North by: Site No.81, South By: Road. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: An undivided share in the land 300 Sq.ft in the schedule A property, SCHEDULE C PROPERTY CONSIST 2 BHK 2 FLAT, 1. Flat/Apartment No. GF1, 2 BHK 2 FLATS, 2. Type of Flat: Residential, 3. Floor: Ground Floor, 4. Super built up area: 1050 Sq.ft., 5. Name of the Apartment: " DEVARA KRUPE" Reserve Price of Property for Each Flat: Rs.17,61,132/- (10% is Rs.1,76,113/-)	Rs.28,70,305/- Upto 13.01.2022	21.02.2022 Monday at 11.00 am
2	Smt Sunitha Raj D/o Sri D.A.Raju No.801, 76th A Cross 6th Block, Rajajinagar Bengaluru-560 010	All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Old No.100, BBMP allotted site No.1114/5043/3016/100, Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore. Measuring East To West: 30 feet, North To South: 40 feet, in all totally measuring 1200 Sq.ft. and bounded on East by: Site No.99, West by: Private Land/Private Property, North by: Site No. 81, South By: Road. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: An undivided share in the land 300 Sq.ft in the schedule A property, SCHEDULE C PROPERTY CONSIST 2 BHK 2 FLATS, 1. Flat/Apartment No. SF1, 2 BHK 2 FLATS, 2. Type of Flat: Residential, 3. Floor: Second Floor, 4. Super built up area: 1050 Sq.ft., 5. Name of the Apartment: " DEVARA KRUPE". Reserve Price of Property for Each Flat: Rs.17,47,897/- (10% is Rs.1,74,790/-)	Rs.34,07,863/- Upto 13.01.2022	21.02.2022 Monday at 11.30 am
3	Sri Aravind Raj S/o Sri D.A.Raju No.801, 76th A Cross 6th Block, Rajajinagar Bengaluru-560 010	All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Old No.100, BBMP allotted site No.1114/5043/3016/100, Nagadevanahalli Village, Kengeri obli,Bangalore south Taluk, Bangalore. Measuring East To West: 30 feet, North To South: 40 feet, in all totally measuring 1200 sqft., and bounded on the East by: Site No.99, West by: Private Land/Private Property, North by: Site No.81, South By: Road. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY: An undivided share in the land 300 sq.ft in the schedule A property, SCHEDULE C PROPERTY: 2 BHK 2 FLATS, 1.Flats/Apartment No. FF1, (2BHK 2 flats), 2. Type of Flat: Residential, 3.Floor: Second Floor, 4.Super built up area: 1050 sq.ft., 5. Name of the Apartment: " DEVARA KRUPE" Reserve Price of Property for Each Flat: Rs.17,56,720/- (10% is Rs.1,75,572/-)	Rs.34,01,098/- Upto 13.01.2022	21.02.2022 Monday at 12.00 Noon
4	Sri P.Manilan S/o K.Panner Selvam No.941, 13th Main 8th Cross, Gokula 1st Stage, Mathikere Bengaluru-560 054	All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No.12 (in erstwhile Sy.No. 30/9, Jalahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk), present BBMP Khatha No.30/9/12, 2nd "A" Cross Road, Jalahalli, Muthyalanagar, Bangalore. Measuring East To West: 30 feet, North To South: 45 feet, in all totally measuring 1350 Sq.ft. Vacant Site and bounded on the East by: Property No.13, West by: Property No.7, North by: Road & South By: Others Property. Reserve Price of Property: Rs.48,30,975/- (10% is Rs.4,83,098/-)	Rs.25,10,691/- Upto 13.01.2022	21.02.2022 Monday at 12.30 pm

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(1) The public auction will be conducted in the premises of The Grain Merchants' Co-Operative Bank Ltd., Head Office No.2, Pampamahakavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.

(2) For participation in the auction the intending bidders have to deposit an amount equivalent to 10% of the Reserve price of the property being cautioned deposit by means of Demand Draft/Pay Order drawn in favour of M/s.The Grain Merchant's Co.Operative Bank Ltd., The cautioned deposit shall be forfeited by the bank without any prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms of sale, time and commits default in any manner.

(3) The Property "SHALL NOT" be sold below the reserve price

(4) In case the bidder is not successful the EMD amount shall be refund without interest.

(5) The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in Cash or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property shall be put for re-auction.

(6) The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues/taxes/charges/property tax/electricity charges/water charges/conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws.

(7) The authorized officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all if the tender or/bid/offer and/or adjourn/postpone/ cancel the auction sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice.

(8) The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank.

(9) The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. at his/her expenses at the address mentioned in the schedule.

(10) The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" AND "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"** the intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title,ownership,statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 13.01.2022

Sd/-
Authorised Officer,
The Grain Merchants' Co Operative Bank Ltd., Bengaluru-18

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SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

DEMAND NOTICE

Registered Office: Office No.123, Angappa Naicken Street, Chennai-600 001. **Head Office:** Level -3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051 **Website:** www.shriramhousing.in

Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of SHRIRAM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002 calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices.

The notices issued to them on their last known addresses and hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower (S) Co-Borrower(S)	Outstanding Amount	Loan No. & Amount	Property Address of Secured Assets
Loan A/c No. SHLHBGLR0000949 **1. MS. PAVITHRA BAI B** **2. MS. YASHASWINI BAI B &** **3. MRS. M LATHA BAI** **R/at. No. 251/1, 2nd Floor, Thurahalli Village, Jayanagara Housing Co-Operative Society, Near Nandini Milk Shop, Bangalore – 560 061** **Also At: No. 08, Turahalli Village, Uttarhalli Village,Opp To Prestige Apartments, Bangalore-560 061** **Also At: MS. PAVITHRA BAI B Herbal Life International Pvt Ltd., Working As Associate, No. 101/1, Condor Mirage, Richmond Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore- 560 025** **Also At: MS. YASHASWINI BAI B Sunvision Holdings Pvt Ltd., Working As Executive, No. 50, Vinay Arcade, K H Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560 027** **NPA DATE** - 06-12-2021 **DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE:** 21-12-2021	Rs. 18,98,054/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand and Fifty Four Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SHLHBGLR0000949 as on 16.12.2021	Loan Account No. SHLHBGLR0000949. Rs. 18,13,070/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Thirteen Thousand and Seventy Only)	All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Southern Portion of Site No. 8, Old V P Khatha No. 281/8, Present BBMP Khatha No. 599/281/8, formed in converted Sy. No. 55/1, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 15 Feet, in all measuring 600 Sq ft, Situated at Turahalli Village, Uttarhalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Presently comes under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Uttarahalli Ward No. 184 of Turahalli, Bangalore and bounded on: East : 30 Feet Road, West : Site No. 15, North : Northern Portion of same Site No.8, South : Site No. 9.
Loan A/c No. SLPHMSOR0000489 **1. MR. ABDUL MAJID KARKALA** **2. MRS. SAJEEDA TABASSUM** **R/at. No. 72, Patel Gundappa Block, J C Nagar, Benson Town, Near Monish Park Apartments, Bangalore South Taluk – 560 006** **Also At: No. 201, D. No. 2-214/9, 2nd Floor, 313, Airport View, Near Airport Road, Bajpe, Mangalore – 574 142** **Also At: MR. ABDUL MAJID KARKALA Misbah's Mini Stores, No. 45, 5th Main, Jayamahal Extension, Opp Honda Service Centre, Bangalore – 560 046** **NPA DATE** - 06-12-2021 **DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE:** 21-12-2021	Rs. 23,19,146/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Nineteen Thousand One Hundred and Forty Six Only) in respect of Loan Account No. SLPHMSOR0000489 as on 16.12.2021	Loan Account No. SLPHMSOR0000489. Rs. 21,13,832/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Two Only))	The Non-agricultural immovable property situated in Kenjar Village of Mangalore Taluk, within the Registration Sub District of Mangalore Taluk and comprised in:- Item No | Sy.no | Kissam | Extent A.C 1 | 97-7AP1 | Converted | 0.14 2 | 97-7A2 | Converted | 0.05 3 | 97-7AP1 | Converted | 0.03 4 | 97-7AP1 | Converted | 0.03.50 TOTAL | 0.25.50 Together with all mamool easementary rights appurtenant thereto. BOUNDARIES AS PER FORM NO. 9 AND 11A: East : Portion of the same Sy No, West : Survey line and Road, North : Remaining Portion of the same Sy No (Property of Indira), South : Portion of the same Sy No.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Place: BANGALORE
Date : 17-01-2022

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Shriram Housing Finance Ltd

Retail equity investors should stick to quality

High volatility, low returns expected in 2022, according to experts

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

FOR retail investors, who stormed the equity market in 2021, 2022 is unlikely to be a period of abnormal returns. Even as the market started the new calendar year on a positive note with Sensex and Nifty gaining nearly 3.5% during the first two weeks, there are enough factors to signal that 2022 won't be anything like 2021.

The year 2022 is likely to be highly volatile unlike 2021, with central banks globally likely to raise interest rates, negatively impacting equity markets. In India too, RBI will raise rates. However, exuberant retail participation and domestic institutional investors (DIIs) flush with funds will be supportive of markets.

Indian markets gained exponentially in the past two years. While benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty gained over 20% in 2021 alone, there are numerous stocks that surged between 100-300% last year. A major reason that led to this bull run was the unending appetite of newly joined investors.

Helped by discount brokerages that made investment in equities an easy affair, this class of investors became a dominant force by their sheer size.

According to data on NSDL and CSDL, a record 27.44 million new demat accounts were created from January to November 2021. Retail investors also invested en masse in equities through Mutual funds with monthly SIPs in December crossing ₹11,300 crore. Total assets invested through SIP at the end of December was ₹5.65 lakh crore, most of which goes into equity funds.

However, 2022 could be a year of moderation and less exuberance in the equity market. Therefore, investors need a recalibration of their expectations as also their equity strategy.

Focus on quality

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, says that retail investors have been chasing mid-and small-cap stocks, many of them of inferior quality. "This is a risky and potentially loss-making investment style. Retail investors should invest in high quality stocks in segments with good earnings visibility. After the spectacular Nifty returns of the last 2 years - 15% in 2020 and 24% in 2021- markets are richly valued and, therefore, it would be realistic to expect only modest returns in 2022," he said.

According to Vijayakumar, low double-digit returns would be decent in 2022 and retail investors will have to adjust to reasonable returns, going forward.

Deepak Jasani, Head of retail research, HDFC Securities, says that retail investors who have entered the markets recently would be sitting on profits unless they were foolish enough to squander money on ill-advised trading. "They should take some profits and raise cash so that it can be deployed in the ensuing correction. Also, they should restrict their expectations of returns in 2022 compared to 2021."

He too says that quality of stocks should be the focus and says that midcaps, smallcaps remain attractive for retail investors due to the possibility of gaining alpha they provide in a trending market. "However, the new breed of investors has to learn from the mistakes made by investors in the past and not get carried away at market highs based on just peer valuations or expected value unlocking," added Jasani.

Where to Invest?

With most sectoral indexes already at record high levels, is there any growth opportunity available for retail investors? Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart says that they are very bullish on the domestic economy facing sectors like Real estate, Power & Infra, Capital goods, and Financials.

"If I talk about the real estate sector then there is a turnaround story after 10 years of underperformance where the last 5 years were very painful due to demonetization, NBFC crisis, RERA, etc but things are looking very bright now and thanks to low-interest rates, stamp duty cuts, supportive government policies and consolidation in the industry due to RERA," says Meena.

He added: "Similarly, power, infra, and capital goods sectors are coming out of 14 years of tough periods and there is valuation comfort and a strong growth outlook as well."

Meena adds the telecom sector is looking in a sweet spot where ARPUs have bottomed out, rather we should say they are on an upward trajectory and the worst is behind us, whereas there are multiple tailwinds to support growth.

Experts also ask investors to be wary of digital companies which started going public last year at pricey valuations. Paytm, which launched India's biggest IPO in November last year, is one of the biggest wealth guzzlers of recent times as its share price has fallen by 50% against the issue price.

HOW TO NAVIGATE INFLATION AND OTHER RISKS TO YOUR MONEY

RAJAS KELKAR

YOUR money does not grow in a linear format. There is always a cycle of growth. You constantly face headwinds, and navigating the times of high inflation is your biggest challenge.

Financial markets could see some turbulence with the consumer price inflation rate at a five-month high in India. This column had earlier in October 2021 flagged the risk of stagflation. That means a phase of high inflation and slow growth. With the onslaught of Omicron infections surging, it becomes a reality.

The inflation demon

This column has often highlighted the risk of inflation to your money. Inflation leads to higher interest rates and slow economic growth. It effectively hurts businesses as expansion is affected. That hurts the stock market sentiment. A phase of higher inflation usually leads to weaker equity markets. However, India is not the only country facing challenges. According to the latest Global Economic Prospects report published by the World Bank, the world faces risks due to slow growth and supply chain bottlenecks.

"After rebounding to an estimated 5.5% in 2021, global growth is expected to decelerate markedly to 4.1% in 2022, reflecting continued Covid-19 flare-ups, diminished fiscal support, and lingering supply bottlenecks," said the report.

In India, the World Bank is relatively optimistic than the rest of the world. There is no change in the growth outlook for India in 2021-22. For 2022-23, the World Bank has upgraded the growth outlook to 8.7%. The global lender expects an improved investment outlook with private investment following the production-linked incentives offered by the government to manufacturers.

However, that does not take away the inflation threat. Most analysts expect the Reserve Bank of India to raise borrowing rates later this year.

What does it mean to invest

Nobody can guarantee returns. The government offers the only guaranteed return in the public provident fund or employee provident fund. The other option is buying government bonds. Your investments in equity markets carry a risk at all times. At the same time, there is an upside from the superior gains over the long term. If you are new to investing, you must begin or continue to invest through index funds or diversified equity mutual funds. A lot of new investors are buying equity shares directly.

Unless you have enough knowledge or research at your disposal, that could be a risky proposition. Investing in equities should be aligned with your long-term financial goals. Some individuals set aside money regularly in the public provident fund or PPF with a particular purpose in mind. Similarly, some regularly invest in blue-chip companies over 10-15 years to achieve their financial goals.

You must get professional help to decide your asset allocation appropriately. Such an advisor can help you choose the right investment vehicle. The rising inflation rate may make risk-taking in equities unattractive for institutional investors. However, some companies tend to do better in an inflationary environment. For example, companies that focus on exports of technology services are unaffected by the inflation in India. They cater to large companies' technology and business needs in the US and Europe. They are inflation-proof.

The other sector is the consumer goods companies. They tend to pass on rising input costs to consumers as inflation is everywhere. That helps them maintain their profit margins. Even if there is a slowdown, people do not stop consuming food and other household essentials. The other sector immune to inflation is the pharmaceuticals sector. There is an increasing demand for medicines and healthcare. That is perhaps why the consumer and pharmaceutical sectors are called defensives.

There could be times when you may not want to take risks and keep your money in fixed income securities that offer marginally higher returns.

However, with higher inflation, you could see the value of your money dwindle. Appropriate asset allocation is the mantra. You need to ensure that your investible surplus is invested right in the direction of your long-term financial goals.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

GRASIM

Current Price ₹1,855

Target Price ₹2,050

Grasim Industries (Grasim) should benefit from the changes in cotton industry dynamics. VSF demand growth should outpace cotton until FY25E. Further, the US ban on cotton imports from Xinjaing region may trigger a shift to substitute products. The company's strong balance sheet is likely to be sufficient for its capex requirements in this segment.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

TCS mega buyback offer: Strong retail response likely

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

SHOULD small investors, holding up to ₹2 lakh TCS shares , tender their holdings in the current buyback, whose size is ₹18,000 crore, larger than the ₹16,000 crore each in the past 3 buybacks?

Anecdotal evidence suggests the previous buyback (2020) evinced substantial retail investor interest.

Against 4 crore shares fixed as the buyback quantity in the current round, TCS fixed the buyback quantity at 5.33 crore last time .

Of this, around 80 lakh shares (15%) were reserved for small investors holding shares up to ₹2 lakh each. The total shares tendered by small investors were 61,25,386 or 76.57% in the buyback then.

"This time too good response could be expected but one will have to await the acceptance ratio," said Hormuz Maloo, director, AFCO Investments .

In the current round, out of 4 crore shares set for buyback, 60 lakh will be reserved for small investors.

Aside of anticipated strong response in the current buyback, performance of the share from the buyback announcement date to the buyback date (when investors began tendering their shares) in past rounds itself suggests robust gain for investors.

Even if a retail investor doesn't tender her shares, she will gain from the rise in share price on strong fundamentals of a company that has been consistently rewarding its shareholders.

For instance, when TCS announced the buyback on October 7, 2020, the share price on the announcement day was ₹2714 against the buyback price of ₹3000. On buyback date (Dec 18) the price was ₹2861, a gain of 5.4%.

Similarly, on June 12 , 2018 , the price was ₹1781 against buyback price of ₹2100. On the buyback date the price rose to ₹2075, a 16.5% gain. In 2017, the gain in share price similarly was 5% as per retail broker ICICI Direct.

While the company has to announce the record date of the present buyback, the price of TCS share at closing on January 12, the date of buyback announcement, was ₹3897.9. On January 14, the closing price was ₹3968.15, a gain of 2.8% already.

Analysts said the company's solid performance itself was a draw for long term investors.

"Digital revenues as a percentage of overall revenues are increasing where margins are higher," said Amit Gupta, VP & fund manager, ICICI Securities PMS. "TCS is a long term compounder and has consistently rewarded its shareholders in long-term. Even in seasonally weak quarters TCS's topline growth is noticeable and signals towards good growth prospects, going forward."

ALL ABOUT SHARE BUYBACK

What's a share buyback?

A repurchase of shares by a co to reduce the number of outstanding shares in the open market, raising the earning per share and return on equity. A way of returning cash to shareholders.

What is the record date and acceptance ratio?

The record date is the date as on which you should hold shares of TCS in your demat account to be eligible for the buyback. The record date announcement is awaited. Acceptance ratio is the no of shares accepted in a buyback against the total no of shares tendered. Sebi mandates that 15% of total buy back size be reserved for small investors holding up to ₹2 lakh shares .

TCS BUYBACK

What is the current TCS buyback size?

₹18,000 crore. The co will buy back 4 crore shares at ₹4,500 per share .

How many buybacks has TCS done in the past ?

Three worth ₹16000 crore each in 2017, 2018 and 2020.

BUDGET-CRYPTO

Budget could consider TDS/ TCS on crypto trading

THE government could consider in the upcoming Budget levying TDS/TCS on sale and purchase of cryptocurrencies above a certain threshold and such transactions should be brought within the ambit of specified transaction for the purpose of reporting to income tax authorities, Nangia Andersen LLP Tax Leader Aravind Srivatsan said.

Also, a higher tax rate of 30% should be levied on the income arising from the sale of cryptocurrency, similar to winnings from lottery, game shows, etc, he said. Speaking on what Budget could have in store for the crypto industry, Srivatsan said currently, India has the highest number of crypto owners globally, at 10.07 crore and as per a report it is expected that the investment by Indians in cryptocurrency could touch $241 million by 2030.

"If the government does not prohibit Indians from dealing in cryptocurrencies, we expect that the government could introduce a regressive tax regime for cryptocurrencies," he noted.

He said considering the size of the market, the amount involved, and the risk coupled with cryptocurrencies, certain changes may be brought in the taxation of cryptocurrencies like bringing them under the provisions of tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collected at source (TCS) above a threshold limit which will help the government get the "footprints of the investors". Both sale and purchase of cryptocurrencies should be brought under the ambit of reporting in the Statement of Financial Transactions(SFT). *PTI*

WHY YOU MUST HAVE A DEATH FILE

A death file (DF) is a tool to help you organise and keep all of your most important financial files, data, and documents in one place. It could be a physical file, a pen-drive, a BOX, or any combination of the above.

These include financial documents, details of your investments, passwords, estate planning documents like Will, Power of Attorney (remember this does not work once you are dead, but the family will be able to use it for a few days at least!) health care will, health policies and any life insurance policies.

The purpose of having this in case of your death, your family will be able to find all the relevant and necessary documents in one location. This surely, reduces stress for the people who have been left behind. This is all the more useful in case of an early death - like a person in his / her 50s. In their 80s, people may not have too many fires burning, so the relevance of this file goes down.

Creating your DF is a dull, boring, absolutely necessary and a serious process. Planning for this should be done today - and you will need separate files for each member of the family. Being organised during the process - especially at the beginning - can help, as it will likely take time to put all the things together.

First, decide on how you plan to keep it. Keeping some of the files in physical form makes sense, however, most of the things should be in digital form. Making sure that the you and your spouse use similar passwords -like home address, date of birth, etc. will be very useful, in case they have to crack it.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

Next, decide what all to keep in the DF - Will, Health Will, Power of Attorney, Life Insurance policy, Annuity lumpsum to be received on death, Postal investment details - which may not be available in digital form, Birth certificate, Pan copy, Aadhar copy, Passport copy, Marriage certificate, House Nomination Form copy, bank and credit card account details, Loan documents, Automobile records, etc.

Creating a DF takes time - so keeping a spare copy in the bank locker or office locker is not a bad idea. In case of the Rich and Famous, they keep a copy in a different seismic zone also, but we may not be that paranoid about documentation, I presume!

Keep it well organised - use a new Physical binder, keep the table of contents, and in case you decide to "borrow" something from this box, make sure that you put it back immediately. Do remember the box that you have kept in a different location ALSO has to be updated if you make some major changes in the binder that you have at home. Of course, the digital files which you keep in the Cloud have to be updated too! Make sure that only very responsible people like your spouse and kids have access to the box. Keeping it sealed makes sense - so that nobody "borrows" anything from that box and "forgets" to return. Make the removal of anything from the box a big event!

The DF (or the death binder or the death box) has to be updated at least annually or on the happening of a significant event. The significant event could be like updating of the Will, loss of a person named in the Will, death of spouse, spouse going into a coma - whatever it is make it an ANNUAL event, at least for starters.

Making this box in the presence of your children - with their help - makes sense so that they know that such a DF exists, and where it is kept. Your lawyer, Chartered accountant, investment adviser, should all know that such a box exists. All of them need not know the full contents or even where it is kept. In case the whole family is killed in an accident, they may access this with the help of the police. Oops, sorry for being morbid - it is my job, apologies.

Discussing death is not easy - especially discussing death of a 55 year old with their 84 year old parents is morbid, but one can't really run away from it, right?

EXPRESS READ

Gold imports jump over 2-fold to $38 billion in Apr-Dec 2021

New Delhi: India's gold imports, which has a bearing on the country's current account deficit (CAD), more than doubled to $38 billion during April-December this fiscal on account of higher demand, according to data of the commerce ministry. The imports stood at $16.78 billion in April-December 2020. In December 2021, imports of the precious metal rose to $4.8 billion from $4.5 billion in the year-ago period. The surge in gold imports during the nine months contributed to the widening of the trade deficit to $142.44 billion against $61.38 billion in April-December 2020.

Jet fuel or ATF price hiked by 4.2%; second increase in Jan

New Delhi: Jet fuel or ATF price on Sunday was hiked by 4.2% - the second increase in rates this month warranted by firming international oil prices, but petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged for the 72nd day in a row. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was hiked by ₹3,232.87 per kilolitre, or 4.25%, to ₹79,294.91 per kl in the national capital, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers. This is the second increase in rates this month. Rates were hiked by ₹2,039.63 per kl, or 2.75%, to ₹76,062.04 per kl on January 1 this year.

India1 Payments aims to deploy 20,000 ATMs in next 4-5 yrs

New Delhi: India1 Payments Ltd, which is currently rolling out 300-400 ATMs in a month, may deploy over 20,000 such machines in next 4-5 years to ensure cash availability to customers in semi-urban and rural areas, its MD and CEO K Srinivas said on Sunday. "The hike in interchange fees by RBI coupled with various structural growth drivers, including expected increase in cash withdrawal transactions, will accelerate White Label ATMs deployments in the country." The ATMs set up, and operated by non-bank entities are known as White Label ATMs (WLAs).

Oz beat Eng by 146 runs, completes 4-0 Ashes win

Australia completed a 4-0 Ashes series victory over England on Sunday by winning the fifth Test by 146 runs with two days to spare. England, set a target of 271 for victory, crashed to 124 all in the last session on the third day at Hobart, losing 10 wickets for 56 after Zak Crawley and Rory Burns combined in a 68-run opening stand. **Brief Scores:** AUS 303 & 155 vs England 188 & 124 (Crawley 36; Boland 3/18)

KOHLI ERA AS CAPTAIN ENDS, WHAT NEXT FOR INDIA?

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

IN the end, there are no ICC titles to show for captain Virat Kohli. They are not the yardsticks to measure a good captain. And even if he did, for a major part of his captaincy tenure, Kohli never came across as an astute captain. Yet, he walks away as the most successful Indian Test captain, and with a rich legacy that will be hard to match for his successors.

Great captains are not just judged on the team's on-field performances. It transcends beyond that. The last seven years has seen Indian cricket move only forward, taking gigantic strides in terms of redefining fitness culture, forever searching for victory even at the cost of losing, taking bold decisions in team selections, developing a core of fast bowlers who will keep Indian cricket healthy for the next five years, making conditions irrelevant, picking five bowlers because it gives more chances to win a Test.

Along the way, there have been instances where Kohli's reign has divided opinions. Be it not willing to work with Anil Kumble as coach or making yo-yo tests mandatory. These decisions not only invited criticism from outside, there were even voices against it in the team. Yet, everyone knew, they had no choice but to follow. It felt autocratic, especially how Kohli never had a deputy who challenged his stature as captain and Ravi Shastri, a head coach who was more than willing to follow the culture that his captain laid out. Through all of it, what is undeniable is India became a genuine force to reckon with both home and abroad. There were frustrations in 2018, but for all of it, the team made amends in 2021. More than the results, these are by no means easy for the incoming captain to match. There has been a huge shift in the culture that has now put India on par with other teams. If Sourav Ganguly started it and MS Dhoni developed it, Kohli has completed it. He is leaving behind what is truly the best Indian team of all time.

There were indications that India would enter a transition period soon. The selectors were hoping Kohli would make it smooth in the Tests. Now, India are forced to look at other options.

And here is where it gets tricky for Test captaincy. While Rohit Sharma remains the obvious choice, there are concerns over his fitness and there is a need to manage his workload. The BCCI, it is understood, are not keen on overburdening Rohit as their prime focus is on winning the 20-over and 50-over World Cups.

The other option is KL Rahul. Although over the last couple of series he has established as their first-choice opener, he is still at a stage where he needs to work on his batting.

While he does have experience of leading an IPL franchise, in the two seasons he led Punjab Kings, he didn't come across as an astute captain. If he is indeed handed over the captaincy, head coach Rahul Dravid will have a lot to do in Tests especially for a team that enters transition.

While Rishabh Pant, too, is being spoken of as a potential candidate, BCCI officials reckon it is still early for him. He did lead Delhi to Ranji Trophy final, and with Delhi Capitals, Pant has shown he can handle big names. But, like Rahul, he needs support from the coach. R Ashwin too remains a contender, especially if selectors feel the time is suited for a short-term captain, as it would allow one of Pant or Rahul to groom into the role.

All said and done, these are huge shoes to fill.

World No 1 loses application by unanimous verdict in Federal Court at Melbourne, leaves home in ignominious crcumstances after almost two weeks of drama

GRAND SETBACK FOR DJOKOVIC

AFP @ Melbourne

NOVAK Djokovic was deported from Australia Sunday having lost a high-stakes legal battle over his coronavirus vaccination status and with his dream of clinching a record 21st Grand Slam in tatters.

Hours after a Federal Court unanimously upheld the cancellation of his visa on public order grounds, an "extremely disappointed" Djokovic complied with a direction to leave the country.

The humbled star boarded a flight from Melbourne's Tullamarine airport for Dubai late Sunday, accompanied by a retinue of aides and officials.

Emirates flight EK409 took off at 10:51 pm local time (1151 GMT), according to an AFP reporter on board.

Twice in the last 11 days Australia's government had ripped up Djokovic's visa and placed him in immigration detention – saying the unvaccinated star's presence could fuel anti-vaccine sentiment amid a tidal wave of Omicron cases.

Twice the Serbian star fought the decision in court, winning one round but losing Sunday's decider.

With a few dry words, the chief justice of Australia's Federal Court, James Allsop, ended a week of legal high drama that was followed around the world. "The orders of the court are that the amended application be dismissed with costs," Allsop said.

Novak Djokovic reportedly boarded a flight from Melbourne's Tullamarine airport for Dubai late on Sunday, accompanied by a retinue of aides and officials

With little chance for appeal, Djokovic acknowledged the game was up, and he would not be gracing Melbourne Park this year. "I cannot stay in Australia and participate in the Australian Open," he said on the eve of a tournament that he has dominated for a decade.

But the controversy looks set to rumble, with Djokovic's image seriously tarnished and Australia feeding a growing reputation for being hostile to visitors.

FOCUS SHIFTS TO TENNIS

The Serbian's medical exemption and subsequent court cases has stolen the spotlight but there are some bubbling subplots at the year's first Major. Some talking points...

NADAL'S OWN CONQUEST OF NO 21

Djokovic's absence will mean Daniil Medvedev will start favourite. But, in what shape will Rafael Nadal, who's chasing a men's record of 21 Majors, be? He missed the last two Slams. He claimed a title last week but the challenge is best of 5 sets tennis over 2 weeks. With just recovering from Covid-19, his preparations have been low key. His path to final — a potential 2nd round against Thanasi Kokkinakis among them — is like an Indian road during monsoon season.

THE NEXT-GEN IS HERE, FINALLY

This may only be on a technicality. Without the deported Djokovic and the absent Roger Federer, focus will automatically turn to the likes of Stefanos Tsitsipas and Alexander Zverev. You would suspect they would be in with a good shout but the favourite right now is Medvedev, who is almost so good in the hard courts. His serve is uncomplicated but effective, wins big points with ease, returns well and has all the weapons from the baseline. Outside this three, the likes of Matteo Berrettini and Andrey Rublev may go deep.

THE ONES NOT HERE

While the tennis on show will be good, the Australian Open seldom disappoints, attention will inevitably turn towards the players not here. Stan Wawrinka, Federer, Serena Williams, Djokovic, Dominic Thiem, Bianca Andreescu, Karolina Pliskova... none of them will be here for different reasons. There was a time when the world's best were always fit, healthy and ready for Melbourne. That's seemingly not the case these days, it looks like.

WOMEN'S TENNIS' NEXT WINNER

It's a new year but the trend in women's Majors is likely to remain. There have been eight singles champions in the last 11 Slams and that's unlikely to change. While the likes of Naomi Osaka and Ash Barty will be among the favourites, there is a whole host of exciting talent that have come through. What will US' Leylah Fernandez do? Spain's Paulo Badosa? Will Aryna Sabalenka finally win or will it be Greece's Maria Sakkari? Also do keep an eye out for Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, the No 10 seed.

01 This is the first time that Nadal will be in the main draw of a Major without both Djokovic and Federer

12 Twelve of the top 30 women in terms of rankings have won at least one Slam

SELECT MATCHES

Tatjana Maria vs Maria Sakkari, Camila Osorio vs Naomi Osaka, Marcos Giron vs Rafael Nadal, Ash Barty vs Lesia Tsurenko, Alexander Zverev vs Daniel Altmaier

Live on Sony Sports Network

Lakshya comes of age in big victory over world champion Loh

During the the closing stages of the match, I was nervous and anxious to finish it off as it was a big tournament but I am happy I could pull it off. I think I played some good physical matches since quarterfinals. It will give me a lot of confidence to go ahead and play the whole season.

Lakshya Sen, after winning the Yonex-Sunrise India Open title

Lakshya Sen hits a return against Singapore's Loh Kean Yew during the men's singles final of the Yonex-Sunrise India Open in New Delhi on Sunday. This was Lakshya's first Super 500 level title | BAI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

TOSSING his racquet in the air and then going on to hug his coach courtside, followed by a 'namaste' gesture with a smile on his face. Lakshya Sen's immediate celebrations after scoring a big victory on Sunday said a lot. After promising so much at the lower levels, he has, going by his recent run, well and truly arrived at the highest level.

Not long ago, he had joined the elite list of Indian shuttlers by becoming a World Championship medallist. Now, he can boast about becoming a India Open winner. It's the biggest trophy (Super 500) of his young career at this level. It has to be noted that due to Covid disruption and travel hurdles, a few of the elite shuttlers have been off in recent times.

Loh Kean Yew (World No 15 and world champion), Lakshya (World No 17) and Kidambi Srikanth (World No 10) were the only top-20 ranked men's singles players in the draw. B Sai Praneeth (World No 18) had withdrawn after testing positive for Covid-19.

But that does not take the sheen out of Lakshya's victory. He has found a formula to cope during pressure games and elevated his finishing skills. Those skills were on display as he beat reigning Loh in the summit clash in straight games (24-22, 21-17) in just under an hour.

Lakshya controlled the rallies well at the start and was on top with a lead of 16-9 in the opening game. But Loh was not ready to yield easily. The Singapore shuttler fought back to garner six straight points, even managing to earn a game point. Lakshya, despite the pressure, managed to hold on and pocket the game.

In the second, Lakshya was patient in his rallies, forcing Loh to make errors. He also employed cross-court smashes effectively. Loh was always chasing after a certain point and Lakshya ensured that he never got close, going on to seal the seal the contest. "I came into the final with a much better rhythm as I played few good three game matches and I played more freely in the final today," Lakshya said after the match.

WINNERS

Men's singles: Lakshya Sen (IND)

Women's singles: Busanan Ongbamrungphan (THA)

Men's doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty (IND)

Women's doubles: Benyapa Aimsaard/Nuntakarn Aimsaard (THA)

Mixed doubles: Hee Yong Kai Terry/Tan Wei Han (SGP)

Satwik-Chirag prevail

Earlier in the day, doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty saved five game points to beat top seeds and World No 2 pair of Hendra Setiawan and Mohammad Ahsan 21-16, 26-24.

EXPRESS READ

Former Kartnataka footballer passes away

BENGALURU: Former state footballer, Abdul Azeez, 73, breathed his last in Kerala on Sunday. He is survived by his wife and two daughters. Besides representing Karnataka in the Santosh Trophy, he also featured for clubs like ASC & Center FC and Mohammedan Sporting as well.

Thalaivas, Panthers settle for a tightly fought draw

BENGALURU: Tamil Thalaivas tied with Jaipur Pink Panthers 31-31 tie while Patna Pirates trumped Bengaluru Bulls 38-31 in the PKL 8 clashes on Sunday. Pirates moved to second place with 39 points.

ISL: Blasters, Mumbai clash postponed in last hour

PANAJI: The Indian Super League tie between Kerala Blasters FC and Mumbai City FC in Vasco was postponed on Sunday, hours before their kickoff as the southern outfit did not have the requisite number of players to field.

Reds keep slim title hopes alive

AFP @Liverpool

LIVERPOOL kept their slim hopes of reeling in Manchester City at the top of the Premier League alive by seeing off Brentford 3-0 at Anfield to move up to second in the table on Sunday.

Fabinho, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Takumi Minamino scored the goals as the victory lifts Jurgen Klopp's men to within 11 points of the runaway leaders, but they also have a game in hand on City.

Meanwhile, Steven Gerrard hailed Philippe Coutinho's dream debut for Aston Villa as his late equaliser capped a thrilling fightback from two goals down against Manchester United in Saturday's 2-2 draw. Leeds United trumped West Ham 3-2 in the other clash.

In other news from London, Rafael Benitez was sacked as Everton manager on Sunday after just 200 days in charge of the struggling Premier League club.

Sunday results: Liverpool **3-0** Brentford; West Ham **2-3** Leeds United: Saturday: Aston Villa **2-2** Man United.

Ostwal bowls India to victory over SA

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE @Chennai

AFTER putting up a moderate total while batting first against South Africa Colts in their opening game of the U-19 World Cup, India came back strongly with the ball to register a 45-run victory — largely thanks to Vicky Ostwal's fifer — at Guyana on Saturday. Chasing 233, South Africa were in control for the better part of the chase with all-rounder Dewald Brevis, anointed as 'Baby AB de Villiers' by his teammates and fans on social media because of their similar strokeplay, putting up a classy 65 from 99 balls. Searching for a wicket, Yash Dhull brought back Raj Bawa and he delivered with two. Ostwal took control from thereon, picking up five wickets for 28 as South Africa were dismissed for 187. Earlier, Dhull's patient 82 took India to 232.

Meanwhile, Ireland, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe trumped Uganda, Papua New Guinea and Canada, respectively in the other matches on Saturday.

Brief Scores: India 232 in 46.5 ovs (Dhull 82; Boast 3/40) beat SA 187 in 45.4 ovs (Brevis 65; Ostwal 5/28); Ireland 236/9 in 50 ovs (Cox 111*; Bagurna 2/34) beat Uganda 197 in 48.1 ovs (Murungi 63; Humphreys 4/25); Zimbabwe 321/9 in 50 ovs (Emmanuel 100) beat PNG 93 in 35 ovs; UAE 284/7 in 50 ovs (Mehra 72) beat Canada 235 in 46.4 ovs (Mihir 96)

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal)

BESCOM invites tender for the following **Enquiry No.BESCOM /GM(M&C)/96/BM/2021-22** For Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Boundary metering cubicles (including meter) across interface points in IPDS towns of BESCOM on Total Turnkey basis under PERCENTAGE quoting on each item basis. The Tender documents can be obtained through e-procurement portal from the Website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.01.2022.** Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further, bidders can take assistance with e-procurement helpdesk at 080-25501216, 080-25501227.

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
The General Manager (Ele)
Meter & Commercial, BESCOM

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/ Tr.(W&M)C/KLB/EEE(O)/Civil/2021-22/4638 Date: 13-01-2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tenders for 10 numbers of Civil Engineering works (Repairs & Maintenance) coming under the jurisdiction of Transmission Circle, Kalaburagi.

The Tender will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "eprocurement–KPTCL" or directly logging on to website. **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after 17-01-2022, Further details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi – 585103. Phone No. : 08472-262545.

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through e-Procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru – 560009

Name of work	Amount put to tender / EMD
No. BWSSB/CEKTE/TA-10/149/2021/3592/2021-22 Date: 13.01.2022	
Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of BHEL make 50MVA, 220KV/66KV/11KV Power Transformer for 220KV receiving Station at Tataguni.	Rs. 5,68,29,864/- / Rs.8,52,500/-

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on **17.02.2022** upto **15:00 hrs**. Date of opening of technical bid will be on **19.02.2022** at **16:00 hrs**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Kaveri)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru – 560009

No. BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-1/TA(M)-1/5488/2021-22 Date: 14.01.2022	
Providing & laying of 230mm dia SW line inplace of dilapidated 230mm dia SW line and construction of new manholes at diffrent locations of "D" Block, Gayatrinagar Ward No.76 and "E" and "A" Block and Milk Colony of Subramanyanagar Ward No. 66 of Malleshwaram Constituency coming under Kethamaranahalli Service Station Area of AEENW-1 Sub Division.	Rs. 447.70 Lakhs / Rs. 6.716 Lakhs

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on **17.02.2022** upto **16:00 hrs**. Date of opening of technical bid will be on **19.02.2022** after **16:00 hrs**.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (West)

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru – 560009

No. BWSSB/CE(WWM)/ACE(WWM)-1/TA-1/1762/2021-22 Date: 14.01.2022	
Providing and laying 450/600mm dia RCC NP-3 class sewer line from Ambedkar Nagar to along Atal Bihari Vajpaye Road upto BBMP Office, Kadugodi	Rs. 289.18 Lakhs / Rs. 4.34 Lakhs
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM)/ACE(WWM)-1/TA-1/1760/2021-22 Date: 14.01.2022	
Providing and laying 800mm dia RCC NP-3 class sewer line from BBMP Office, Kadugodi FCI Main Road to Kadugodi STP.	Rs. 237.86 Lakhs / Rs. 3.57 Lakhs
No. BWSSB/CE(WWM)/ACE(WWM)-1/TA-1/1758/2021-22 Date: 14.01.2022	
Providing and laying 450/600/900mm dia RCC NP-3 class sewer line from Kodigehalli Main Road to Sadaramangala ISPS along Hoodi Kodigehalli Road.	Rs. 340.98 Lakhs / Rs. 5.11 Lakhs

For the above three tenders, Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on **31.01.2022** upto **5:30 pm**. Date of opening of technical bid will be on **02.02.2022** at **4:00 pm,**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWM)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/DDU/MIA/2879/2021-22

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Singapore's Omicron wave is likely to see a fairly sharp peak in the near term, similar to what South Africa had witnessed last month, which could push the number of infections in the city-state to around 15,000 cases a day

Covid-19 infections are soaring again at US nursing homes because of the omicron wave, and deaths are climbing too, leading to new restrictions on family visits and a fresh push to get more residents vaccinated

1st local omicron case in Beijing

Two weeks before the start of Winter Olympics authorities scramble to mass test people

COVID

BEIJING: Beijing has reported its first local omicron infection, according to state media, weeks before the Winter Olympic Games are due to start.

The infected person lives and works in the city's northwestern district of Haidian and had no travel history outside of Beijing for the past two weeks.

The individual experienced symptoms on Thursday and was tested on Friday for Covid-19, officials said in a news conference Saturday.

The news of the infection comes less than three weeks before the Winter Olympic Games' opening ceremony on February 4, and around two weeks before the start of Lunar New Year celebrations in China.

So far, multiple cities in China have reported omicron infections, including Zhuhai and Zhongshan in southern Guangdong province as well as the city of Tianjin, which is 30 minutes from Beijing by high-speed rail.

Officials across the country have urged residents to stay in their cities for the new year, instead of traveling back to their hometowns.

China has adopted a strict "zero-Covid" policy, with authorities locking down residential compounds and even entire cities such as Xi'an when a local outbreak has been discovered in an effort to stamp out community transmission.

The Beijing patient's residential compound and workplace have been sealed off and authorities are mass-testing people linked to either location for the coronavirus.

Some 2,430 people had been tested as of Saturday night, according to *The Global Times*, a state-owned newspaper.

China reported 119 new coronavirus infections on Saturday, of which 65 were domestic cases. The country has reported 104,864 infections since the beginning of the pandemic

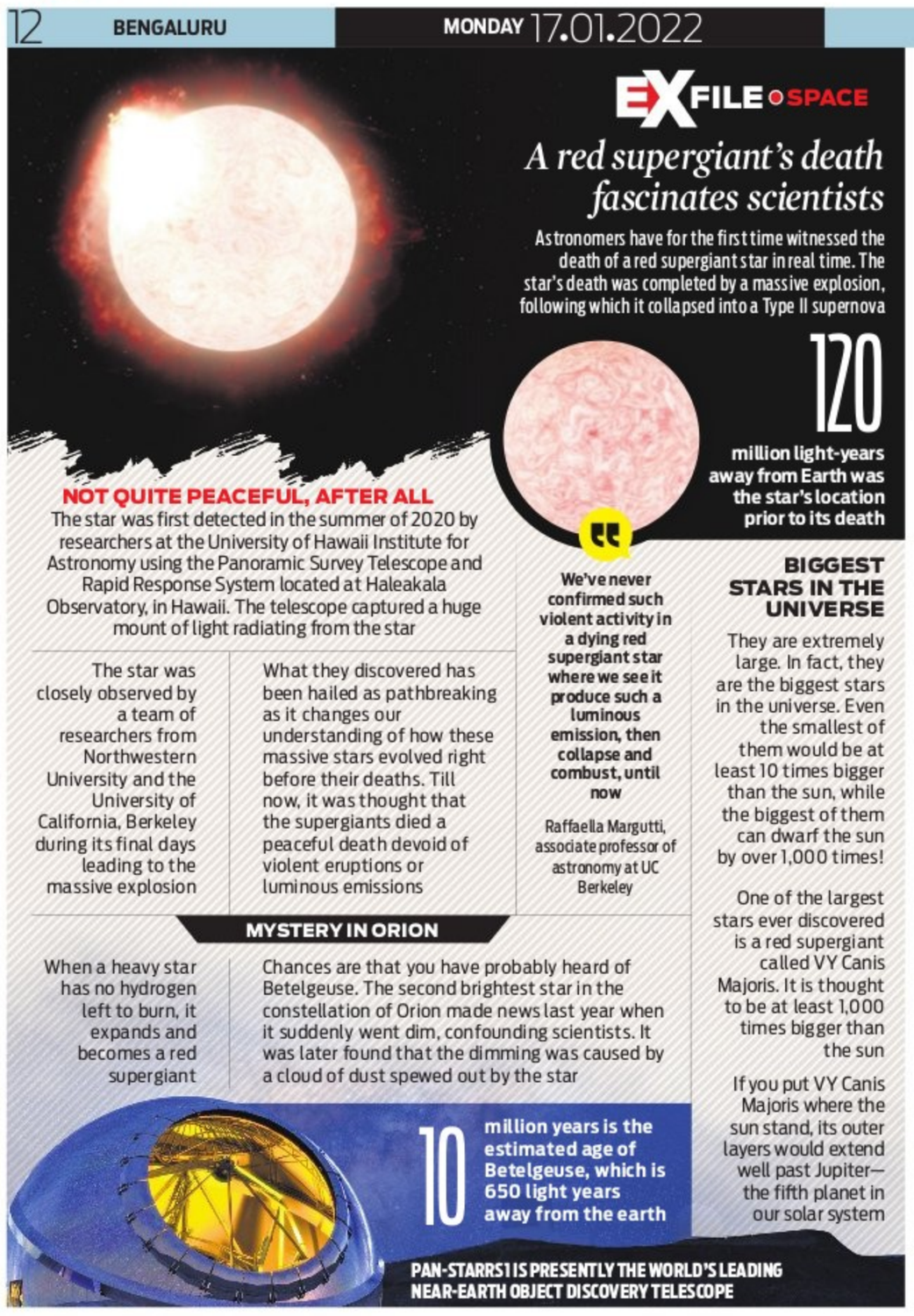
The Chinese city of Xi'an has gradually begun lifting restrictions after over three weeks of lockdown, as authorities sought to stamp out a local outbreak before the Beijing Winter Olympic Games are due to start.

State-owned broadcaster CCTV reported Sunday that certain counties and development zones in Xi'an had begun restoring production.

EXFILE • SPACE

A red supergiant's death fascinates scientists

Astronomers have for the first time witnessed the death of a red supergiant star in real time. The star's death was completed by a massive explosion, following which it collapsed into a Type II supernova



120 million light-years away from Earth was the star's location prior to its death

NOT QUITE PEACEFUL, AFTER ALL

The star was first detected in the summer of 2020 by researchers at the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy using the Panoramic Survey Telescope and Rapid Response System located at Haleakala Observatory, in Hawaii. The telescope captured a huge mount of light radiating from the star

The star was closely observed by a team of researchers from Northwestern University and the University of California, Berkeley during its final days leading to the massive explosion

What they discovered has been hailed as pathbreaking as it changes our understanding of how these massive stars evolved right before their deaths. Till now, it was thought that the supergiants died a peaceful death devoid of violent eruptions or luminous emissions

We've never confirmed such violent activity in a dying red supergiant star where we see it produce such a luminous emission, then collapse and combust, until now

Raffaella Margutti, associate professor of astronomy at UC Berkeley

MYSTERY IN ORION

When a heavy star has no hydrogen left to burn, it expands and becomes a red supergiant

Chances are that you have probably heard of Betelgeuse. The second brightest star in the constellation of Orion made news last year when it suddenly went dim, confounding scientists. It was later found that the dimming was caused by a cloud of dust spewed out by the star

10 million years is the estimated age of Betelgeuse, which is 650 light years away from the earth

BIGGEST STARS IN THE UNIVERSE

They are extremely large. In fact, they are the biggest stars in the universe. Even the smallest of them would be at least 10 times bigger than the sun, while the biggest of them can dwarf the sun by over 1,000 times!

One of the largest stars ever discovered is a red supergiant called VY Canis Majoris. It is thought to be at least 1,000 times bigger than the sun

If you put VY Canis Majoris where the sun stand, its outer layers would extend well past Jupiter—the fifth planet in our solar system

PAN-STARRS1 IS PRESENTLY THE WORLD'S LEADING NEAR-EARTH OBJECT DISCOVERY TELESCOPE

Tesla moves to reduce dependence on China

TECH

LONDON : US Tesla is turning to Mozambique for a key component in its electric car batteries in what analysts believe is a first-of-its-kind deal designed to reduce its dependence on China for graphite. Elon Musk's company signed an agreement last month with Australia's Syrah Resources, which operates one of the world's largest graphite mines in the southern African country. It's a unique partnership between an electric vehicle manufacturer and a producer of the mineral that is critical for lithium-ion batteries.

The value of the deal hasn't been released. Tesla will buy the material from the company's processing plant in Vidalia, Louisiana, which sources graphite from its mine in Balama, Mozambique. The Austin, Texas-based electric automaker plans to buy up 80% of what the plant produces — 8,000 tons of graphite per year — starting in 2025, according to the agreement. Syrah must prove the material meets Tesla's standards.

The deal is part of Tesla's plan to ramp up its capacity to make its own batteries so it can reduce its dependence on China, said Simon Moores of UK-based battery materials data and intelligence provider, Benchmark Mineral Intelligence. "The US wants to build enough capacity domestically to be able to build (lithium-ion batteries) within the USA. And this deal will permit Tesla to source graphite independent from China."

Covax delivers 1 billion vaccines

COVID

GENEVA: The Covax scheme aimed at equitable global access to Covid-19 vaccines hit a "key milestone" Saturday when it delivered its one billionth dose, one of its key backers said.

The Covax facility was set up in 2020 by the World Health Organization, Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to ensure that poorer countries can access the vaccines.

"Covax has delivered its first billionth dose of Covid-19 vaccines to 144 countries & territories across the world," Gavi chief executive Seth Berkley tweeted. "It's a key milestone in the largest and most rapid global vaccine rollout in history."

Covax hit the one-billionth mark less than a year after delivering its first vaccine dose late last February . All countries have been permitted to order doses through the mechanism.

Serbians up in arms against lithium mining

ENVIRONMENT

BELGRADE: Environmental protesters demanding the cancelation of plans for lithium mining in western Serbia took to the streets again on Saturday, blocking key roads and for the first time a border crossing.

Traffic on the Balkan nation's main north-south highway was halted for more than an hour in Belgrade. Minor incidents have been reported with angry drivers trying to push their way through the crowds. Witnesses told N1 television that a man was injured in one incident in Sabac.

Environmental groups want the government to halt the possibility of lithium mining in Serbia. Activists have pledged to press on with blockades until their demand is met. Thousands joined similar demonstrations weeks ago, forcing the government to withdraw two laws that activists said were designed to speed up the country's mining plans.

U.K. MULLS SCRAPPING TESTS FOR VACCINATED TRAVELERS

COVID

LONDON: The UK government is reportedly planning to do away with the requirement of mandatory Covid-19 tests post-arrival into the country for fully vaccinated travellers, including from India, as part of preparations of having to live with coronavirus in the future. According to *The Sunday Times*, UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps is understood to be in favour of ending the testing regime for all those who have had both vaccine doses, in time for school holidays in the UK in February.

The move, which will save families hundreds of pounds and boost the pandemic-hit travel industry, will follow the scrapping of pre-arrival Covid tests from early in the New Year. Under current rules, travellers arriving in England are required to stay at their declared address on a legally binding Passenger Locator Form until they log a negative lateral flow or PCR test result on a pre-booked system.

A positive test requires a 10-day quarantine at the address, although this can be cut short with a negative lateral flow test on days six and seven. Those not fully vaccinated must isolate for the full 10 days on arrival, with tests required on days two and eight. *The Sunday Times* quoted a source close to the transport minister to say that he is in favour of relaxing these rules by the end of this month.

"We are looking at removing all Covid tests for vaccinated travellers by the end of January, which is likely to coincide with the review of the Plan B measures on January 26," the source told the newspaper. January 26 is the date earmarked for a review of the current rules, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson expected to lift the ongoing Plan B restrictions he announced in December 2021 to combat the Omicron variant. These include working from home where possible and wearing masks in shops and on public transport.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Pink masks anger Italian police

covid : An Italian police union has objected to officers being given pink coronavirus masks, warning they do not go with their uniforms and "risk damaging the institution's image". In a letter to the national chief of police, the head of the SAP union urged action against what he called the "perplexing" choice of colour of the FFP2 masks. Stefano Paoloni said police managers must "preserve the decorum of their officers, ensuring they are not ordered to carry out institutional activities with protective devices (masks) in a colour that is eccentric to the uniform and risks damaging the image of the institution".

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एच डी एफ सी बैंक
हम समझें आपकी दुनिया

Demand Notice under Sub Section 2 of Section 13 of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act,2002 (hereinafter referred to as "The Act".)

We, HDFC BANK LTD hereinafter called as "Bank" do here by issue notice as under. Please take notice that you the following had availed a loan details of which have been mentioned hereunder. Towards the said loan you have created security interest in favour of the Bank on the property described hereunder by way of mortgage by depositing title deed. After availing the said loan, contrary to the contractual obligations you have defaulted repayment of the loan amount together with interest and other charges. Hence, your loan account has been categorized as Non Performing Asset.

Therefore, the Bank hereby recall the entire loan and call upon you to pay total amount outstanding in your loan account together with interest and all other charges thereon (details of which have been mentioned hereunder), within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of this Notice. Further, You are hereby put on notice that in terms of Sec.13 (13) of the SARFAESI Act, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured asset detailed hereunder.

If you fail to repay the Bank the outstanding amount, the Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under Sec 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's right to initiate such other or further legal proceedings, as it deems necessary under any applicable provisions of law.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of Borrower/ Co Borrowers	Description of property (Secured Assets)	A/c No & Amount	Date of NPA	Total Amount /Outstanding Amount
1.	**1. M/s. N I K Industries** Represented By Its Prop: Darshanik M M, No. 1/3, Sri Nandhi Estate, Seegehalli, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore - 560091. **2. Mr. Darshanik M M ,** No 77, Karishma Hills, Gubballa, Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560061. **3. Mrs. Poornima Anjanappa,** No 77, Karishma Hills, Gubballa,Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560061. **4. Mr. M L Manjunath,**No 77, Karishma Hills, Gubballa,Bangalore South, Bangalore – 560061. Site No 103, 5th Main, Kendra Updyara Sangha, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560078	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing BBMP katha No 41, old Site No 103, PID No 112-41, measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, situated at Jaraganahalli village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, presently at 5th Main, Kendra Upadyara Sangha, Banashankari 2nd Stage and bounded on the : East by: Site No 83, West by: Site No 102,South by: Road, North by: Road	LAP A/c No 83464695 ₹ **80,89,649/-** LAP-GECLFacility A/c no: 8620326 ₹ **15,64,000/-**	07-07-2021 06-06-2021	**₹.9903532.35 as on 08.11.2021**
2.	**1. Neha Fabs Proprietor : Joyce Cicilia,** No 1003/B 17th D Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore- 560038 **2. Mr. P Rajendran,** No 1003/B 17th D Cross, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near Cauvery School, Bangalore- 560038 **3. Neha Uniforms,** Proprietor: P Rajendran 1st Floor, No 323, Narayanapillai Street, 3rd Cross, Commercial Street, Bangalore - 560001 **4.Siddarth Rajendran,** No 1003/B 17th D Cross, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near Cauvery School, Bangalore- 560038 **5. Joyce Cicilia,**No 1003/B 17th D Cross, Indiranagar, 2nd Stage, Near Cauvery School, Bangalore- 560038	All the piece and portion of the property bearing No 1003/B, PID No 82-24-1003B, 17th D Cross, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Bangalore and bounded on the: East by: Site 1002/B, West by: Site No 1004/B,North by: Site No 1003/A South by: Road. Land measuring 1200 Sq Ft , consisting of building measuring 3566 Sq FT BUA thereon	A/c no: 83991904 ₹. **85,00,000/-** LAP GECL A/c No 8131655 ₹**2450000/-** STP MORTGAGE Loan A/c 85505095 ₹ **6160000/-** STP MORTGAGE Loan A/c: 85648522 ₹**35000/-**	06-10-2021	**₹.18301235.11 as on 08.11.2021**
3.	**M/s Rachita Systems,** Represented by Its Proprietor, Mr. Satish, No.25, 4th Stage, 6th Cross, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560044 **Mr. Sathish B,** No. 358, 18th Cross, 8th Main, BEML Layout, Basaveshwara Nagar, Near Pavithra Paradise, Bangalore - 560079 **Mrs. Manjula S,** No. 358, 18th Cross, 8th Main, BEML Layout, Basaveshwara Nagar, Near Pavithra Paradise, Bangalore – 560079 **Mr. Madan. K.** No.1/1, Artillery Road,Ulsoor, Behind Canara Bank, Bangalore – 560008 **Mr. Kumar J.,** No.1/1, Artillery Road,Ulsoor, Behind Canara Bank, Bangalore – 560008	**Schedule 'A' Property:** All that piece and parcel of immovable property consisting of land and residential building bearing Municipal New No.1/1, situated at Artillery Road, Halasuru, in BBMP Ward No.75, having PID No.75-61-1/1, (formerly Northern half portion of Corporation Old No.18/1, situated at Cambridge Road, Ulsoor), Bangalore, measuring on the East: 42 feet, West: 42 feet 6 inches, North: 49 feet 3 inches and South: 55 feet, totally measuring 2208.28 Square feet, together with existing building in Ground and First Floor thereon and bounded on the: East by: Site No.18/2, West by: Artillery Road, North by: Private Property, South by: Southern Half portion of Site Old No.18/1 belonged to Sri. N. Narasimhan. **Schedule 'B' Property:** Western portion of Ground Floor consisting of Kitchen, Living Room, Two Bed Rooms, Bath, Toilet totally measuring 655.75 Sq.ft of built up area and immediate western side of plinths as utility and right to construct Second Floor of the Western portion measuring 730.75 Sq.ft, including the northern side above the proposed porch to be built and constructed on the Schedule 'A' property bearing Municipal New No.1/1, situated at Artillery Road, Halasuru, in BBMP Ward No.75, having PID No.75-61-1/1, (formerly Northern half portion of Corporation Old No.18/1, situated at Cambridge Road, Ulsoor), Bangalore, together with 1/4th undivided share, right, title and interest in the land of Schedule 'A' property equivalent to 550.57 Square feet and right to use common areas like passage, entrance, gate, terrace on the second floor, lobby western side staircase, open area, water sump, overhead tank and other common area and utilities, etc,.	LAP A/c No 82554829 ₹ **3340,000/-** LAP-GECL Facility A/c no: 8167800 ₹ **599,289/-**	28-09-2021 06-11-2021	**₹4237238.78 as on 11.11.2021**
4.	**1.Bhoomika Enterprises,** Rept By Prop: G C Sashidhar, Ramappa Bldg 2nd Phase Electronic City, Near Velankani Software, Bangalore – 560068 **Mr. G C Sashidhar,** No 1102/71, Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore– 560068 **Mrs. Sarala N.,** No 1102/71, Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore– 560068	All that piece and parcel of the Residential Site bearing No 71, old House List No 1182 2nd block V P khata No 1024 New katha No 592, formed in Converted Sy No 268/1, Presently comes under the Jurisdiction of BBMP, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Site No 54, North by: Site No 70, South by: Site No 72.	Drop line Over Draft- Mortgage A/c no: 50200015611604 ₹. **6980000/-**	28-09-2021	**₹.1983547.65 as on 18.12.2021**
5.	**1.Karthik Computer Solution,** Rept By Prop: K Sandil Kumar, #266, Second Floor, 53rd Cross 4th Block, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore- 560010 **2 Mr. K Sandil Kumar,** No. 15, 25th Cross, Chickpet, Kilari Road, Bangalore - 560010 **3. Mrs Lakshmi Devi,** No. 15, 25th Cross, Chickpet, Kilari Road, Bangalore - 560010	All the piece and parcel of the Southern Proton of Site Bearing No 15, 25th Cross Road, Kilari Road, Chickpet, Bangalore – 560053, measuring 769.84 Sq Ft and bounded on the: East by: property Bearing No 14,West by: property Bearing No 16, North by: Common Passage and remaining Northern portion of Site No 15, South by: Private Property (School)	LAP A/c no: 84031684 ₹ **48,00,000/-**	31-10-2021	**₹.5447286.95 as on 6.01.2022**
6.	**1. Delhi Trading Compa**ny Proprietor : Nayaz Pasha No 29/1, 3rd Main, Shamanna Nagar, Vijaynagar Pipeline Road, Bangalore- 560026 **2. Mr. Nayaz Pasha,** No 29/1, 3rd Main, Shamanna Nagar, Vijaynagar Pipeline Road,Bangalore- 560026 **3. Mrs. Shahida Mohammed Shafi,** No 29/1, 3rd Main, Shamanna Nagar, Vijaynagar Pipeline Road, Bangalore- 560026	All the piece and portion of Western portion of the property bearing Site No 29 (Old property No 11 & 12) out of Municipal No 21/1, PID No 42-90-29, New PID No 134-W0065-12, situated at 3rd main, Shamana Nagar, Bangalore, within the limits of BBMP and bounded on the: East by: Vendors remaining portion,West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Ramananda Turst property, Measuring East to West :30 Ft and North to South : 40Ft consisting of building thereon	**Loan A/c. No. 84339202 ₹. 50,00,000/-** Drop Line OD (50200028755981) **₹.11,00,000/-** LAP GECL(8147938) : Loan amount **₹1432000/-** Commercial Property Loan (9183061) **₹45762/-** Commercial Property Loan (450055726) **₹20,943/-** Commercial Property Loan (450763650) **₹28,546/-**	09-05-2021 09-05-2021 09-05-2021 29-06-2021 06-11-2021 06-12-2021	**₹.5,679,059.17 as on 28.12.2021** **₹.986614.01 as on 28.12.2021** **₹.1569163/- as on 28.12.2021** **₹.55,033.28 as on 28.12.2021** **₹.25,672.01 as on 28.12.2021** **₹.32,616.75 as on 28.12.2021**
					Total amount of ₹8348158.22/- as on 28-12-2021

Place : Bangalore
Date : 07.01.2022

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

Sd/- Authorised Officer, HDFC BANK Ltd.,

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17•01•2022
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Meet Popeye

The Thimble Theatre created by cartoonist Elzie Segar, debuted a new character called Popeye, a sailor, on this day in 1929

THE COMIC STRIP

The original strip parodied popular movies and plays. The two central characters were Castor Oyl and his pal, Ham Gravy. Castor had a sister, Olive Oyl

NEW CHARACTERS

Within a year, Ham was written out of the strip and Popeye replaced him as the sweetheart of Olive. Wimpy was added to the cast in 1932, and Swee'pea in 1936

AN HONOUR

Popeye became the first cartoon character to have a statue in his honour when one was put up in Crystal City, Texas in 1937

Rakshit Shetty's body transformation for his next

PG 4

STAND AT EASE

SINCE THE PANDEMIC BEGAN, MANY WORKING PROFESSIONALS HAVE BEEN FINDING COMFORT WHILE STANDING AND WORKING IN THEIR OFFICES AND HOMES

SANATH PRASAD

WHEN Ritesh R, owner of an online and offline distribution company, heard about the concept of standing and working from his friend, he got rid of all the chairs in his office cabin and ordered a portable standing desk. From taking stock of the inventories to attending online meetings, Ritesh prefers to stand and execute his work. "For the first few days of standing and working, I suffered lower back pain. However, I understood that my muscles are adjusting to the new working position. After getting used to this, I hardly sit. I can stand and work for four hours in one stretch. Eventually, I feel I have worked out," says Ritesh who also encourages his employees to adopt the stand and work model.

Thanks to the pandemic and work from home culture, working professionals are now dealing with unconventional working patterns to keep themselves healthy and active.

Although this concept is not completely new, the pandemic has made it a mainstream one. Interior designers and architects in the city are setting up standing workstations for their clients as part of the larger interior specs. Meghana Dutta, founder of Studio Decode, an architecture and interior designing company, has signed up with five clients in the last two years to set up standing desks at their office. "These days companies are planning for a workstation that is sustainable and healthy at the same time. The need for standing desks has amplified after the work from home culture kicked in. These desks are adjustable, depending on the height the user wants. Companies are opting for standing workstations as it helps them enhance work productivity," says Dutta.

Meanwhile, some have adopted a sustainable model by just buying a portable and foldable desk — they keep a stand to support the laptop. Architect Shilpa Spoorthy adopted the stand and work model as part of her weight-loss journey. "My husband and I following one meal a day model as part of our weight loss mission and standing and working is one of the aspects contributing to that. From attending zoom meetings to designing models, I prefer this model of working. It was initially difficult to adapt to this style, but now I feel more comfortable and active. I also ensure I walk while I am on calls," says Spoorthy, who has been practising this for over 10 months now. She also adds that standing and working for 30 minutes is equal to burning 60 per cent of calories that you burn after a 30-minute walk.

With meetings becoming more intimate and focussed in nature, Richard Pattle, co-founder and CEO of True Beacon (sister company of Zerodha), believes that a standing workstation is an optimal option. "We will be launching our office next month and we are going to have a highly tech-enabled and mobile desk. I am a big fan of standing and working and I can easily work for five hours during my work schedule. I think keeping yourself on the move is more effective than staying static in a place. Sitting for long can be demoralising too," says Pattle.

PROS
- Makes you active
- Increases your mobility within the office
- Decreases exhaustion
- Prevents slouching

CONS
- Excessive standing can lead to varicose in veins
- Leads to leg pain and swelling
- Operating in odd positions can lead to chronic pain

Ritesh R

Shilpa Spoorthy

These days companies are planning for a workstation that is sustainable and healthy at the same time. Working professionals are now opting for standing workstations as it keeps them active and helps them enhance productivity

Meghana Dutta, architect

I am a big fan of standing and working and I can easily manage for five hours during my work schedule. I think keeping yourself on the move is more effective than staying static in a place. Sitting for long can be demoralising too

Richard Pattle, CEO, True Beacon

CITY READ

Burger brand to expand overseas

Bengaluru-based burger brand Biggies Burger is celebrating its 10th-anniversary and will be expanding its footprint into other countries. The brand is planning to extend its reach in Southeast Asia and Middle East. Sandeep Satpathy, co-founder of Biggies Burger, says, "We have seen the toughest time during Covid. However, we doubled our stores during the pandemic. We are targeting 100 stores by this year end and 300 stores by 2024. We already have investors from Singapore and have set up one store in Coimbatore which is already operational and also are planning to set up a store in Singapore. By 2022 we will be having our presence in Srilanka as well."

Auroville Film Festival from Jan 18

The 2022 Auroville Film Festival, which is set to be an online edition, will commence from January 18. This year, the festival will feature films in two categories — international category of films that develops the theme of human unity containing 35 films from 18 different countries and Aurovilians category that has 36 films from 14 Aurovilians and residents of the bioregion, including one student. You can also buy films until January 23. For details, visit filmfestival.auroville.org

LIFE IN FULL BLOOM

Benglauru city is filled with Tabebuia rosea trees these days. As seen near MG Road, scores of these beautiful pink flowers are lining the streets and giving the pothole-filled roads a much-needed makeover. Tabebuia rosea trees were introduced in India around the 19th-century by the British. | VINOD KUMAR T

GRUB HUB

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher worth `1,000 from KFC**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Sweet Pongal, 2) Ellu Bella, 3) Holige

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Sudhindra Sripadarao 2. Viraj Reddy 3. S Nagaraj

***Conditions apply**

WORD PLAY

Wordle is the latest internet sensation that people can't stop playing. Gamers tell *CE* what sets this game apart and why it's addictive

MONIKA MONALISA

THE year has just begun and we already have an online game that many are hooked on. Called Wordle, the game has currently taken the gaming world by storm.

Software engineer Josh Wardle created the game for his partner Palak Shah who loves to play word games. It was supposed to be a two-person game before it became an internet sensation.

The game has become a worldwide rage, so it's only obvious that *namma ooru* will also hop on to the bandwagon.

Geetanjali Chitnis, head of brand and communications at Geist, starts her day by playing Wordle. She figured out about the game when saw a few people tweet their wordle grid results on Twitter.

She says the game is fairly simple and does not consume most of your day. "It's something challenging that I can spend a few minutes of my day doing. I love how simple the rules are. What makes it challenging and fun is that everyone who plays the game start with the same blank of 6 x 5-word grid with no clues," says Chitnis, adding since there's no app to download, one can just open it up on any browser. "I try and pick a starting word that has many vowels. I change this up every few days," she says, revealing her strategy.

Others like Satshya Tharien thinks the share option is a great visual code to share not only the triumph of winning but also the path that one took to win. "It's a great conversation starter. You can look at someone's Wordle score and say 'Oh nice, you got three green squares on your first try — what word did you use?'. It's also quite simple for anyone who plays the game to understand it and also creates curiosity among those who haven't played it," say Tharien, a senior content strategist.

More than a good vocabulary, one needs patience to play this game. "Wordle has fairly simple five-letter words — you need to be careful about your guesses and be patient enough to deduce your next word," say Tharien.

According to her, this game is "a great way to start your day as it helps you slow down, focus and then celebrate the little joy of seeing all the letters turn green when you guess it correctly."

Agrees Krithika R, a marketing manager, who believes it's a new-age form of crossword. "Growing up, I have seen my parents solving daily crosswords that come in the newspaper and discuss among themselves. This is similar to that," she says.

Wordle can be played only once a day and perhaps why people like Sungandhi Gadadhar find it addictive. "You bet it is addictive! I can't stand it that the next word is "15 hours away, 18 hours away". But I am also glad it is one word a day — else I would be doing this instead of working," laughs Gadadhar, a wildlife filmmaker and cameraperson.

Satshya Tharien

Geetanjali Chitnis

HOW IS THE GAME DIFFERENT FROM SCRABBLE?

Scrabble gives you a definite set of 7 letters to choose from, out of which you can make an infinite set of words of varying lengths, based on tiles already present on the board. Wordle starts with all 26 alphabets, but with a 5-letter limit. You only get 6 attempts to guess it. In other words, Scrabble is a game of creation and variations, and Wordle is all about deduction.

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME

A word guessing game, where the website picks a word of the day and the player has six chances to guess the word. The colour of the tiles changes after each guess to show how close a player's guess was to the word. For the correct letter, the tile turns green and also indicates it's in the right position. A yellow tile means the letter is in the answer but not in the right spot, and for incorrect letters, it shows as a grey tile.

BAND ROUTE

Five-piece band Organized Madness will be performing at Hard Rock Cafe. The band mainly holds its roots in English electronic/ alternative rock. **When:** Jan 20. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

AMAZON CALLING

Experience meeting of waters in the Amazon river with TourHQ where you will get real-time experience streamed live from the boat. You will also get an insight into the lifestyle and culture of the local indigenous communities and visit unique places around the area, all via Zoom. **When:** Jan 18-31. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

AMUSEMENT UNLOCKED

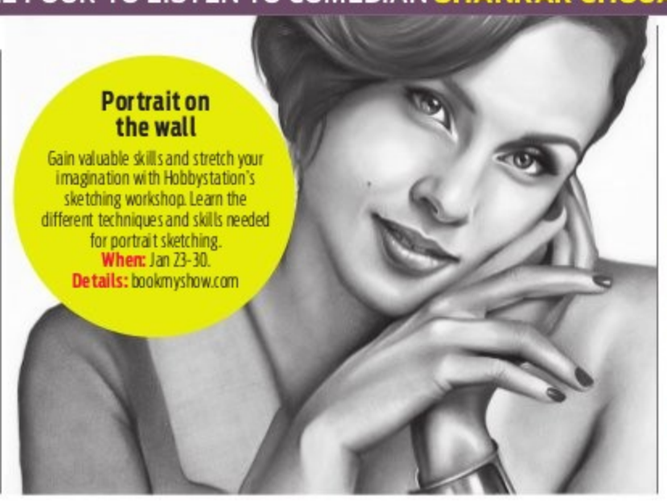
Head over to Wonderla Bangalore Park and get on one of the 60+ exhilarating rides. You can also simply laze by the pool and catch a much-needed break. **When:** Jan 17-31. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

KNIFE PAINTING

Drawing Room is offering an online impasto texture knife painting workshop for all age groups. The kits will be home delivered which will also include reusable metal knives. **When:** Jan 29. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Dance Class

Attakalari Connect offers contemporary dance for kids online. It will be taught by master faculty and your children can master the skill from home. **When:** Till Jan 31. **Details:** bookmyshow.com



Portrait on the wall

Gain valuable skills and stretch your imagination with Hobbystation's sketching workshop. Learn the different techniques and skills needed for portrait sketching. **When:** Jan 23-30. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Fit Station

Join Fit Camp at Versh Studio if staying fit is on your to-do list this year. It's a two-hour event where you will see workouts like body weight training, HIIT and animal flow, among others. **When:** Jan 22-29. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Fiction Writing

Want to learn to write like a pro? Ruskin Bond is offering a course on the art of writing on Unlu. Interact with the author yourself and learn everything you want to know. **When:** Jan 22-30. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Pottery Workshop

Want to learn about hand-building and wheel-throwing? Check out the pottery workshop at Lahe Lahe and learn everything you need to know about pottery. **When:** Till Jan 28. **Details:** bookmyshow.com

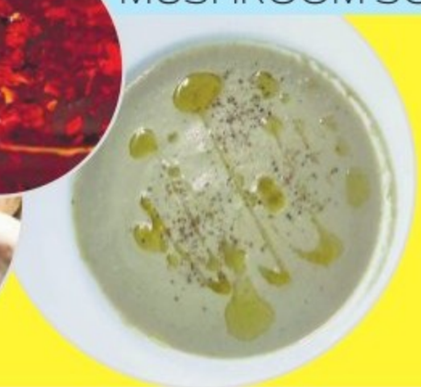
BECOME ONE OF THE FOUR TO LISTEN TO COMEDIAN SHANKAR CHUGANI SHARE JOKES FOR CHAAR LOG HASENGEY WHEN: TILL JAN 31 DETAILS: BOOKMYSHOW.COM

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

MUSHROOM SOUP WITH CORIANDER CHILLI OIL



INGREDIENTS

Mushroom: 250 g
Onion: 1, small
Garlic: 5 g, chopped
Black pepper: 10 g
Green chillies: 2-3
Cream: 20 ml
Bay leaf, Butter
Red paprika
Chopped coriander

METHOD

- Heat 1 tbsp oil and butter. Add garlic, bay leaf and finely chopped onion. Cook for two minutes. Add mushrooms, a pinch of salt and cover. Cook for five minutes.
- Meanwhile, in a bowl, add green chillies, red paprika and coriander and pour hot oil over it. Set aside.
- Turn the gas off. Let the mixture cool down. Blitz to a fine paste. Pass it through a sieve and transfer it back to the pan. Adjust consistency.
- Cook for about two minutes. Add cream and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper.
- Strain just the oil from the chilli-coriander mix and use it as a garnish over the soup.

— Saumya Grover, Delhi

SOUND BOARD

THE SCHOOL OF GREATNESS

Lewis Howes' The School of Greatness shares inspiring interviews from the most successful people on the planet — world-renowned leaders in business, entertainment, sports, science, health, and literature — to inspire YOU to unlock your inner greatness and live your best life.
- On Google Podcasts

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW

If you've ever wanted to know about champagne, satanism, the Stonewall Uprising, chaos theory, LSD, El Nino, true crime and Rosa Parks, then Josh and Chuck have you covered.
- On Apple Podcasts

HARBORING POSITIVITY

This podcast creates an open conversation about all things pertaining to families and communities. Safe Harbor has guest speakers ranging from licensed professionals, experts in domestic violence and child abuse, community members and leaders and members of the Safe Harbor team.
- On Spotify

A SHOW ABOUT CRYPTO WITH ROHAN JOSHI

Comedian Rohan sits down with an expert to explain, in the simplest of ways, what cryptocurrency is and how it all works. Each week, Rohan embarks on a mission to understand for himself what the different aspects of cryptocurrencies are, and how they all come together.
On Google Podcasts

HUBERMAN LAB

The podcast discusses neuroscience: how our brain and its connections with the organs of our body controls our perceptions, our behaviours and our health
- On Google Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

NATASAARVABHOWMA

An investigative journalist, Gagan, moves to Bengaluru and ends up living in a supposedly haunted house. Soon, he realises a change in his behaviour after falling prey to supernatural activities.
- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Anupama Parameswaran, Rachita Ram, B Saroja Devi

DAKOTA EXPRESS

Owners of a bus, Krishna and Sundar, face numerous problems due to poor conditions. However, their life takes a turn when the daughter of the minister takes refuge in their bus.
- Cast: Rockline Venakatesh, N Om Prakash Rao, Doddanna, CH Lokanath

ADYAKSHA

Chandru and Aishwarya, two classmates, assist each other during difficult times in lives. However, trouble begins when they end up falling in love with each other.
- Cast: Sharan, Chikkanna, P Ravi Shankar, Malavika Avinash

YUVARATHNAA

Due to the privatisation of the education sector, RK College is on the verge of closing. However, the principal and a student join hands to prevent it from happening.
- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Sayyeshaa, Sonu, Dhananjay

HEBBULI

After Ram's brother dies suddenly, he decides to investigate the reason behind his death. However, he must fight against the corrupt system to protect his family and find the truth.
- Cast: Sudeep, Amala Paul, Kabir Duhan Singh, V Ravichandran

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 HOW TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND NOT ACCEPT LIMITS BY CANDACE PARKER

Olympic gold medalist and WNBA champion Candace Parker knows what it takes to fight for your dreams. In this inspiring talk, she shares what she's learned during a career spent not accepting limits — and how her daughter taught her the best lesson of all.

2 THE ART OF STILLNESS BY PICO IYER

In a counterintuitive and lyrical meditation, Pico Iyer takes a look at the incredible insight that comes with taking time for stillness. In our world of constant movement and distraction, he teases out strategies we all can use to take back a few minutes out of every day, or a few days out of every season. It's the talk for anyone who feels overwhelmed by the demands of our world.

3 WHY GREAT LEADERS TAKE HUMOUR SERIOUSLY BY JENNIFER AAKER AND NAOMI BAGDONAS

Based on the course they teach at Stanford's Graduate School of Business, behavioural scientist Jennifer Aaker and corporate strategist Naomi Bagdonas delve into the surprising power of humour: why it's a secret weapon to build bonds, power, creativity and resilience — and how we can all have more of it.

4 HOW COMIC STRIPS CREATE BETTER HEALTH CARE BY SAM HESTER

Hester shares how illustrating small details of her mother's medical story as she struggled with mysterious symptoms alongside her Parkinson's and dementia led to more empathy, understanding, communication and peace of mind.

5 HOW TO REALISTICALLY DECARBONIZE THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY BY BJØRN OTTO SVERDRUP

Bjørn Otto Sverdrup, who leads the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative describes a possible path for the industry to pivot to net-zero operations, reimagining the role it could play in helping decarbonise the economy and changing how we consume energy.

FIT BIT

VIPARITA NAMASKAR PADMASANA

(REVERSE PRAYER LOTUS POSE)

In this asana, the legs are crossed and the feet are positioned on top of the opposite thighs at the hip crease. This seated posture is an advanced shoulder, arm and chest stretch that is a variation of mountain pose. You have to join your hands behind your back, hence it is named as reverse prayer lotus pose. It is an intermediate to advanced pose which requires flexibility in the knees and hips. As such, practitioners should warm up the body with mobility exercises prior to practicing this pose. If the top knee does not reach the floor, a blanket or block may be used for support.

STEPS

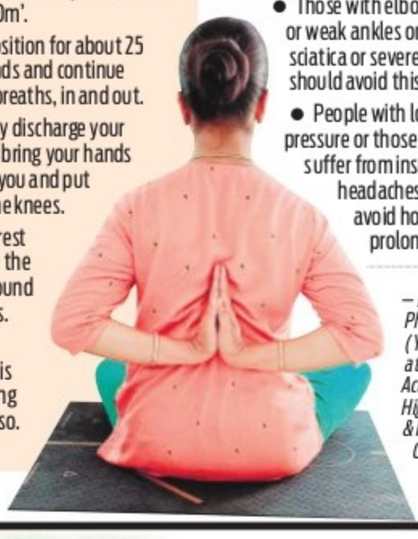
- Sit with legs stretched out in front while keeping the spine erect.
- Bend the right knee and place it on the left thigh. Make sure that the sole of the feet point upward and the heel is close to the abdomen.
- Repeat the same step with the other leg.
- Both legs are crossed and feet placed on opposite thighs. Keep your head straight and spine erect.
- Place your hands behind your back and keep your fingers pointing downwards.
- Breathe in and turn your fingertips inward towards your spine and try to join your palms together and turn your fingertips upwards (Namaskar pose).
- Your palms should be pressed strongly against each other. Close your eyes and focus your mind on the word 'Om'.
- Hold the position for about 25 to 35 seconds and continue with long breaths, in and out.
- Then, slowly discharge your palms and bring your hands in front of you and put them on the knees.
- Take some rest and repeat the process around 3 to 5 times.
- You can perform this in a standing position also.

BENEFITS

- Opens up the chest and maintain energy levels and metabolism.
- Best for those suffering from Carpal Tunnel Syndrome (CTS).
- Opens the abdomen and improves the lung function.
- Reduces stress and calms the mind.
- Helps build confidence.
- Improves flexibility in the shoulders, arms, forearms, wrist, chest and back.
- Relieves mild depression and anxiety.
- Beneficial in shoulder and neck pain.
- Relaxes your shoulder blades and loosens your tight muscles.
- Relaxes your mind, body, and soul.

LIMITATIONS

- Those with elbow injury or weak ankles or knees, sciatica or severe back pain should avoid this.
- People with low blood pressure or those who suffer from insomnia or headaches should avoid holding for a prolonged time.



— By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

YEH KAALI KAALI ANKHEIN (Series, Hindi)

Relentlessly pursued by a powerful politician's daughter who will do anything to make him hers, a man slips down a dark, risky path to reclaim his life.

Cast: Anchal Singh, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Shweta Tripathi, Surya Sharma
- Watch on: Netflix

BHEEMANTE VAZHI (Malayalam)

Bheeman realises the inconvenience caused by the age-old pathway when he had to take his mother to the hospital for an emergency. Everything takes an interesting turn as he decides to broaden the pathway.

Cast: Kunchacko Boban, Chemban Vinod Jose, Suraj Venjaramoodu
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

KESU EE VEEDINTE NADHAN (Malayalam)

Simple yet smart, sexagenarian Keshu has a loving family and a driving school to call his own. Everything's perfect until he wins a lottery worth crores.

Cast: Dileep, Nadirsha, Kavitha Ranjini, Harisree Ashokan
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

THOOTA (Telugu)

A normal student falls in love with an actress and a year later, they marry. However, their honeymoon doesn't go as planned when mysterious events endanger their lives.

Cast: Dhanush, Sasikumar, Megha Akash
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

PUTHAM PUDHU KAALAI VIDIYAADHAA... (Series, Tamil)

This takes the legacy of the first anthology forward and once again brings together 5 original and inspirational voices of contemporary Tamil cinema — Halitha Shameem, Balaji Mohan, Richard Anthony, Surya Krishna and Madhumita - with new stories of hope and love that celebrate the resilient human spirit in these uncertain times.

Cast: Arjun Das, Lijomol Jose, Gouri G Kishan, Teejay Arunasalam, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Sananth, Dhilip Subbarayan, Nadiya Moidu, Joju George
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

MGR MAGAN (Tamil)

An estranged father and son must join hands to save a medicinal mountain from the claws of a businessman.

Cast: Mirnalini Ravi, M Sasikumar, Nandita Swetha, Samuthirakani
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

KURUP (Malayalam)

Sukumara Kurup — a consummate criminal sets out to find a man of similar appearance to falsify his own death and claim insurance money.

Cast: Dulquer Salmaan, Sobhita Dhulipala, Tovino Thomas, Manoj Bajpayee
- Watch on: Netflix

FOREIGN

THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT (Series, English)

On the sands of Tatoonie, bounty hunter Boba Fett and mercenary Fennec Shand navigate the Galaxy's underworld and fight for Jabba the Hutt's old territory.

Cast: Temuera Morrison, Ming-Na Wen, Jennifer Beals, George Lucas,
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

GHOST IN THE SHELL (English)

In the near future, Mira, the first cyber-human, must stop the growing cyber-terrorism. After discovering a secret of her identity, she sets out to learn more about her obscured past.

Cast: Scarlett Johansson, Pilou Asbæk, Michael Pitt, Juliette Binoche
- Watch on: Sony Liv

LATE NIGHT (English)

An acclaimed late-night show host is forced to hire a female writer because of her decline in popularity. Soon, things go haywire when her personal emails are leaked.

Cast: Emma Thompson, Mindy Kaling, Hugh Dancy, Reid Scott
- Watch on: Netflix

RESPECT (English)

Following the rise of Aretha Franklin's career from a child singing in her father's church's choir to her international superstardom, "Respect" is the remarkable true story of the music icon's journey to find her voice.

Cast: Jennifer Hudson, Forest Whitaker, Marlon Wayans
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+ Hotstar: ₹ 499 per year
Apple TV: ₹ 99 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Netflix: ₹ 149 per month

40 is the new 40

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

THE smooth filter less skin, with a fresh rosy complexion is what I see when I look back at my pictures 10 years ago. It is my birthday week and I'm turning 40, and I would say 40 is not the new 30.

Beneath the great skin and smile, there is a lot of turmoil women experience. Which woman doesn't go through the phases of feeling low while making a family? One day she's a girl and the next a woman who is supposed to manage a household, bear babies and act like an ideal woman (who would only be able to make the world happy if she came with a 5-year experience)!! Jokes apart, as a young mom in my early 20s, it was all the more inadequate to look at the stretch marks. It felt like my clothes would never fit me, but we must give it to the women of our generation — they stretch and bounce back.

Adjustment is an often repeated word in our Indian dictionaries. You go to tailor and he declares the cloth is less. We say, "Bhaiya, adjust karo"; the girl gets married, "Beta, adjust karo". So, the day my cook vanished, I told the same dialogue to my family, "Darling, adjust karo".

Undoubtedly, today's women in their 40s rock. They have jobs, independence, money, voice, glamour, options of choosing their lifestyle (and filters and fillers) and are better positioned than any women in the previous generations who "adjusted".

As I approach my birthday, I realise how comfortable and confident I am in my skin, with my stretch marks, how less of an emotional being I am — unlike my younger years (what a relief) — how free I am to jump out of bed and go for a run without having a care about babies (unlike a lot of my friends who began in their 30s), and how emancipated I feel since I care two hoots about what someone thinks about me or my outfit or how weird I am looking...hah!

The only thing that I would know is I'm going to pamper and take care of myself — my body that is integral to my mental well-being, the skin that shall age someday and bear the story of my journey, the long hair is getting a medium-length cut with a few greys that reflect my grey cells (oh c'mon, I have streaked those).

To all women who are nearing 40 and dreading it — don't you dread but do tread with care. Life is not a bed of roses as long as you live but live every moment happily and rejoice in your beauty, womanhood and "adjust karo" (time for workouts, walks, cardio and strength training).

Sleep on time and have a bedtime routine. Use effective serums and facial oils. Use masques that are mild like rice water or banana peel, orange peels or eggs. Nourish your mind with good books, nourish your spirit with good thoughts and nourish your soul with love.

Cherish people who made you strong and independent and gave you wings to glide. Use a mask but don't forget your sunscreen, and yes, you could still use your favourite shade of lipstick and smile whether someone notices it or not.

BOX OF HERITAGE

Want to travel and collect souvenirs but are unable to do so? Meet the owner of Travel Trinkets who brings home a little bit of culture and handicrafts from different countries

The collections completely depends on the place I am visiting When I travelled to Turkey, the boxes also came from there. The items range from fridge magnets, postcards to ceramic items sourced from the local artisans

Vidya Shree M, HR professional

MONIKA MONALISA

COLLECTING souvenirs while travelling allows people to cherish memories and be reminded of their time there. However, it's not always feasible to keep up with this hobby, due to various reasons. But city-based Vidya Shree M understands this problem and decided to bring a little bit of the place for people who want to own it. Named Travel Trinkets, these are small souvenirs from different countries that depict their culture and heritage.

The idea of Travel Trinkets came to Shree when people started enquiring about the souvenirs she collected for herself. "Usually my travel posts on my Instagram are quite long and elaborate which is why I prefer doing it after my return. But people reach out with requests to pick up somthing for them," says Shree, who is an HR professional.

She also adds that this box of goodies is ideal for those who don't get to travel as often as they'd like. "Not everyone gets to travel as extensively as we do. It could be for various reasons. This way, you can get your own little piece of handicraft from a different country," she says, adding that it's a way to support local artisans as well.

So, what exactly is there in this box? "It completely depends on the place I am visiting. For instance, I travelled to Turkey during Christmas with my friend Divya Iyer, and the boxes also came from there. It ranges from fridge magnets, postcards to ceramic items which come from the local artisans," says Shree, who likes to call it a 'surprise box' as no two boxes contain the same items.

"It does not make sense to buy the same items. The contents of the boxes will be approximately the same price. And this way, it becomes fun for people to reveal the souvenir once they receive it," she explains. The boxes were priced at ₹1,200; they are sold out now.

"Initially, we had decided to come up with 10 such boxes but we got sold out in one hour. We then increased the number to 25 but that too got sold out in four hours. Since I was visiting various places, there was a limit to how many I could have got," says Shree, who mentions that she had planned to start this in mid-2021 but due to the second wave of the coronavirus, she was unsure how things could have worked out.

Even if her souvenir boxes are currently sold out, she is looking forward to travelling again soon. "My next travel might be in February. I am still contemplating the places because there is Khajuraho and Odisha on the list. Both are rich in culture, heritage and handicrafts. I am just waiting for the Covid situation to be under control," says Shree, adding all the information about these souvenir boxes will be on her Instagram handle @vidoutboundaries.

Vidya Shree's collection of souvenirs sourced from different countries.

Proud wifey

Following Virat Kohli's announcement of stepping down as the captain of the Indian test cricket team, his wife Anushka Sharma penned down an emotional note. She recalled many moments from his career that defined him as a decisive cricketing personality. "...Yes, I am very proud of your growth as the captain of the Indian National Cricket team...Our daughter will see the learning of these 7 years in the father that you are to her. You did good (sic)," she said. Check out the post on her Instagram page.

ART THAT SPEAKS

Celebrated artist Rekha Hebbar Rao showcases her unseen work at Gallery Time and Space

EXPRESS FEATURES

EXPERIENCE and observation is the best mentor as well as the best muse. Artist Rekha Hebbar, whose latest work Select Works is exhibited at Gallery Time and Space, is one of them

The exhibit consists of about 40 paintings and drawings created by the artist in the last decade. It explores themes such as the position of women in society, social inequality, and the environment, something that Rao saw and experienced over her lifespan. "Renu George, the director of the gallery, curated the shows when she visited my studio in Whitefield and went through most of my work," says Rao, who mostly works with oil and acrylic colours.

With a wide usage of bold and strong strokes, Rao's work is mostly inspired by her surroundings. "The colours are the core of my paintings. I inherited understanding the pictorial space at the basic level. It involves its own rules and certain things are recognisable. To me, all the art is representational in some way or another," explains Rao.

"I will be exhibiting my drawings which were done during the period when our world went through an unprecedented crisis that disrupted our commonly held notion of peace and stability," says Rao, daughter of the late KK Hebbar, one of India's most prominent modernist artists.

"My paintings metaphorically depict the world around me. On the surface, it is easy to read but something else lies behind it. The paintings interpenetrate one another and together create a world of their own," adds Rao.

Hailing from a rich Indian art family, Rao's childhood was surrounded by artists like SH Raza and MF Husain, who frequented her home. "I absorbed all that I saw and heard. This expanded my artistic vision," says Rao.

Works of Rekha Rao Hebbar will be displayed at Gallery Time and Space till Jan 17.

My paintings metaphorically depict the world around me. On the surface, it is easy to read but something else lies behind it. The paintings interpenetrate one another and together create a world of their own

Rekha Hebbar, artist

THE LAST OF US: HAVE I CONVINCED YOU?

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

The Last of Us (part 1) is a story about nature healing 20 years after an apocalypse. We see this through the lens of Joel and Ellie, who go on a delightful cross-country backpacking trip. I forget the details. The cause of the apocalypse was a "cordyceps" outbreak — the accepted scientific term for a zombie. In the two decades that passed, civilisation collapsed, separating humanity into factions. None of them like each other. They are constantly embroiled in bloodthirsty contest for scraps of food and resources that remain on Earth.

Joel is a middle-aged man, who does not seem pleased at the idea of babysitting a teenage Ellie through this arduous road-trip. But as they say, the strongest bonds are built when you are faced with raging mutant zombies and merciless hunter — humans. Even if you fed the game's "great graphics" to the zombies, the clever gameplay is immune. The stingy number of resources available to take-down enemies never fail to remind us that the world as we know it has ended. We need to be smart and patient at encounters. The environmental clues left through the scattered letters, is both excellent storytelling and great entertainment simultaneously.

Soon, we see Joel overcome his disapproval of the world to accept strong-willed, courageous, funny, and sometimes foul-mouthed Ellie as a daughter. If you have played a lot of games before, you may understand how tempting it is to skip a cinematic scene with dialogues. TLoU is one of the only games that had me wishing for a rewind button, just so I can hear Joel say "it's ok, baby girl" to Ellie again.

This is not the first time that I have written about 'The Last of Us' in this column, and it is far from the last time I will ever mention it. There are rational reasons to bring it up again.

First, to jog your memory in advance of the officially unannounced release of a TLoU 2 Multiplayer game, and a potential remake. If you buy the first game now, you could also play Multiplayer add-on called 'Factions'. Second, is to prepare you for the TV show which is currently in-works. My real reason for writing this, however, is to have more people to experience this amazing story. If you don't have a PlayStation, at the very least, I hope I have convinced you to watch the entire video walk-through online.

The year of having it all

SAUMYA R CHAWLA
@pixie.secrets

Beauty behaviour with a side of dessert

PIXIE SECRETS

What does "having it all" mean? For some of us, it could mean the 9 to 5 of our dreams and a wagging tail to come home to. For others, it could mean a family that doesn't drive you up the wall, and a little alone-time to unwind in the evening. If you're anything like me though, having it all means having a little bit of everything — especially if it's in the shape of a bottle.

This is where bi-phase beauty products come into play. Think of this as the ultimate Beauty Buy One Get One offer: you get two distinct formulas, which are great on their own, combined into one ultra-effective, hardworking product. One of the components that typically makes an appearance is oil, which has lower density than the water-based formulas and therefore floats above it.

Think about Italian salad dressing. You know how the olive oil and balsamic vinegar don't actually mix, but when you shake them together they taste delectable? If you apply the same logic to your beauty routine, minus the taste test of course — you get your new favourite thing: bi-phase products. This essentially allows you to combine two very separate compositions in one, offering a distinctly unique texture and feel, along with the convenience of multiple benefits and a much more simplified routine. These formulas are also great if you are anything like me with acne-prone skin and are hesitant to try hardcore facial oils.

I chanced upon Kama Ayurveda's Brightening biphase essence, which is derived from their iconic and much-loved kumkumadi thailam. The fragrance reminds me of an ayurvedic spa — which I love, and it's packed with saffron, aloe, and vitamin E, among other good things. You're meant to use it as a toner, but I like spritzing it through the day, almost as a grounding exercise and a little treat for the skin. This works especially well in Northern winters, where the heaters leave my skin dry and the pollution has robbed it of all joy and glow. Another all-season winner is Kama's rose water — definitely stash a few of those by your bedside!

My lovely readers, this just goes to show that if you ever feel like your heart is in two places at once, know that you don't have to choose one for the other. It's 2022 and you truly can have it all, as long as you're locked up indoors and replace human company for skincare and a houseplant. Oh well, that doesn't sound half bad from where I'm sitting.

Rakshit Shetty and Rukmini Vasanth

RAKSHIT SHETTY'S BODY TRANSFORMATION FOR *SAPTA SAGARADAACHE YELLO*

50 per cent of the shoot of the romantic drama, directed by Hemanth M Rao, is wrapped up. Now, the makers are waiting for Rakshit to put on 15 kilos to resume the shoot

A SHARADHAA

RAKSHIT Shetty and the team have completed shooting 50 per cent of *Sapta Sagaradaache Yello* a couple of days ago. Now, the actor has to put on 15 kg for the team to begin shooting the second half of the film.

According to the film's director, Hemanth M Rao, Rakshit will require a minimum of 40 days to put on that weight. Sharing some exclusive pictures with *CE*, the director, in a freewheeling chat says, "The intense romantic drama is set in two different timelines - 2010 and 2020. Rakshit's transformation is a key to show the difference," explains Hemanth.

The director says that yet again covid-19 has delayed the shooting process. "If not, we would have completed shooting for the film by now. Unfortunately, we lost a lot of time. We managed to complete the shoot under a lot of constraints," says Hemanth, who has chosen Bengaluru and Shivamogga as the primary locations.

Hemanth M Rao and Achyuth Kumar

A still from the film

"We have shot in many areas of the city, which went well. But it was also quite taxing. The last leg of shooting was tiring because of the night curfews and weekend lockdowns. Portions, which could have been shot in one night, took us three nights, and the budget shot up," he adds.

Sapta Sagaradaache Yello marks Rakshit's second collaboration with director Hemanth. The duo worked together in the latter's debut *Godhi Banna Sadharana Mykattu*. Bankrolled by Paramvah Studios, the upcoming film has music scored by Charan Raj and cinematography by Adhvaitha Gurumurthy. The romantic drama features Rukmini Vasanth as the female lead.

Rakshit Shetty is said to be simultaneously getting ready with the script of his next project, *Richard Anthony*. He will be teaming up with Hombale Films for this project, which will mark his come-back directorial after *Ulidavaru Kandante.*.

ACTOR VINOD PRABHAKAR VENTURES INTO PRODUCTION WITH *LANKASURA*

The film directed by Pramod Kumar, and starring Vinod, will be bankrolled by the latter's Tiger Talkies banner

Vinod Prabhakar along with the team *Lankasura*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Vinod Prabhakar is set to venture into production with his upcoming film, *Lankasura*. This Pramod Kumar directorial will be the first film to be released under the actor's banner, *Tiger Talkies*, named after his father and actor Tiger Prabhakar. Billed to be an action-packed entertainer, the film, based on the underworld, will feature Vinod in the lead along with Yogi appearing in a prominent role. Both the actors have undergone a makeover for this commercial flick.

Malayalam actor, Parvathy Arun, who made her Kannada debut with *Geetha* plays the female lead in *Lankasura*. The film consisting of an ensemble cast also includes actors Ravi Shankar and Devaraj playing pivotal characters.

The film, produced by Nisha Vinod, is currently on floors and the shooting is going on in different parts of Bengaluru. The film's music is scored by Vijeth Krishna, and lyrics to the four songs are penned by director Chethan Kumar. Sugnan (Gnanamurthy), the DOP for films like *Sidlingu*, and *I Love You* will be handling the cinematography for *Lankasura*.

A still from Ranchi

Prabhu Mundkur and Divya Uruduga recreate classic song *Nachike Inneke*

Nachike Inneke is a popular track of the 1978 film, *Kiladi Jodi* featuring Vishnuvardhan and Lakshmi

CE FEATURES

PRABHU Mundkur and Divya Uruduga, the lead pair of *Ranchi*, have recreated a classic evergreen song, *Nachike Inneke*. The track is from the popular 1978 film, *Kiladi Jodi* featuring Vishnuvardhan and Lakshmi. The song has been rearranged by music director, Manikanth Kadri, and the recreated song is sung by Sanjith Hegde and Supriya Ram.

This lyrical song video was on January 16, on the occasion of Bigg Boss Season 8 contestant, Divya Uruduga's birthday. The film is directed by Shashikanth Gatti and is jointly produced by Rudra Films and Girija Talkies in association with Shashikanth Motion Pictures Pvt Limited. *Ranchi*, which has been in the making for a long time now has completed shooting, and is currently in the post-production stages, gearing up for release.

Nagaraj Somyaji's set to make feature directorial debut with *Akatakata*

CE FEATURES

PHOTOGRAPHER and theatre artist, Nagaraj Somayaji, the producer of Sanchari Vijay's *Puksatte Lifu* wants to shift his focus to direction next. His tryst with direction began with a 43 minutes film, *The Best Actor.*

Nagaraj's upcoming project titled *Akatakata* will be his first feature-length film. "This will be a family drama, which revolves around the mother-son sentiment. It is going to be an out-and-out commercial film, and we are in the process of introducing a newcomer to the industry," says director Nagaraj, who shared the first look poster from the film with *Cinema Express*. *Akatakata*, will be bankrolled under the Sarvasva Productions banner.

The film's story is penned by writers ASG, Baslar Bangera, and Sandhya Rani. As of now, the technical team is on board. They include music director Mathews Manu, and cinematographer SK Rao. Arjun Gowda will be taking care of the editing. The cast of the film is, however, not finalised.

Nagaraj Somyaji

First look poster from *Akatakata*

Ankita Amar

Pruthvi Ambaar

ANKITA AMAR MAKES HER FEATURE FILM DEBUT WITH *ABA JABA DABA*

Directed by Mayuraa Raghavendra, the film has Dia-actor Pruthvi Ambaar playing the male lead

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Ankita Amar, who rose to fame with the daily soap, *Nammane Yuva Rani*, is all set to make her tinsel town debut with the upcoming film *Aba Jaba Daba*.

The actor will star opposite Pruthvi Ambaar in the fantasy romantic drama, that has Mayuraa Raghavendra attached to direct. The team announced the news on the occasion of Sankranti through official first look posters of the film.

Pruthvi Ambaar's poster shows him blindfolded, with hands tied at the back. Ankita's first look features her holding a mic, with a picture of legendary singer, SP Balasubrahmanyam, in the background. Meanwhile, *Aba Jaba Daba* marks director Mayuraa's second film after *Kannad Gottilla*. Notably, the director will also play an important role in the film. *Aba Jaba Daba* also stars Mukhyamantri Chandru, Urvashi, Achyuth Kumar, and Sudharani in pivotal roles. *Bigg Boss Season 8* contestant Raghu Gowda and comedian P D Satish Chandra are also set to appear in the film.

The film is produced by Anantha Krishna under the S Ram Productions banner.

Madhunandan, Rakesh Maiya and Paavana Gowda to star *Saddu Vicharane Nadeyutthide*

CE FEATURES

DEBUTANT Madhunandan and Rakesh Maiya are playing the lead roles in a new investigation thriller titled *Saddu Vicharane Nadeyutthide*. The film is directed by newcomer Bhaskar R Ninasam. The makers unveiled the film's first look poster on the occasion of Sankranti.

As the title suggests, the film set in the backdrop of a police station revolves around missing lovers. Ashwini KN has written the story. Music is by Sachin Basrur, and Rajkanth S handles the cinematography. Raghu Shivamogga, Jahangeer M S, Krishna Hebbale, and Paavana Gowda will be seen in prominent roles in the film. It is produced by Surabhi Laxaman under the banner of MMCinemas.